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Alvin chasing career milestones

Saturday Special / D1
Women make their mark at Berlin filmfest

■Health / B12
Dietary regimen to keep out of cancer's way

■News / A2
Palace warns France on gunboat diplomacy

■Super / E2
KC Concepcion: Pinay pride in Paris

Justice chides Comelec for 3 separate FPJ opinions

By Philip C. Tubeza

A SENIOR member of the Supreme Court has chided the Commission on Elections for allowing three of its commissioners to file separate opinions on the disqualification case against opposition presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr.

JUSTICE/ A17

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

7 gov't execs fail lifestyle check, face charges

By Armand N. Nocum

A DAY after a presidential candidate assailed it for allegedly bowing to pressure from Malacañang, the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission announced that it had charged with graft seven officials who supposedly failed the government's lifestyle check.

7 GOV'T/ A17

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website: www.inq7.net

'Legitimacy a non-issue'

4 Friends of Court may prove to be friendly to FPJ

By Philip C. Tubeza and Carlito Pablo

ILLEGITIMACY is irrelevant.

The "friends of the court" invited by the Supreme Court to shed light on the disqualification case against presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr. the other day proved friendly to the movie actor's contention that he was a natural-born Filipino citizen.

But they also maintained that Poe needed to prove that his father recognized him as his own son.

Retired SC Justice Vicente Mendoza, ex-constitutional commissioner Joaquin Bernas S.J., former University of the Philippines College of Law Dean Merlin Magallona, and UP law professor Ruben Balane argued that Poe's alleged illegitimacy did not bar him from being a natural-born citizen.

Bernas led the charge in criticizing the petitioners' position, and that of the solicitor general, that Poe was not a natural-born citizen because of his alleged illegitimacy.

"It is not the fault of the child that his parents had an illicit liaison. Why deprive the child of the fullness of political rights for no fault of his own? To disqualify an illegitimate child from holding an important public office is to punish him for the indiscretion of his parents. There is neither justice nor rationality in that," Bernas said.

Mendoza said that if the father recognized, through the birth records, his blood relation or filiation to the illegitimate child at birth, then the child could be considered a natural-

'LEGITIMACY/ A18

ERIK ARAZAS

LEGAL luminaries Ruben Balane, Fr. Joaquin Bernas, and Vicente Mendoza were invited by the high court to present their opinions on the Poe disqualification case. Not in photo is former UP College of Law dean, Merlin Magallona.

Longest ever hearing in high court's history

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE JUSTICES had Jollibee.

A late *merienda* of burger and fries from the fast food chain helped keep the Supreme Court justices going through 12 hours of oral arguments on Thursday—the high court's longest-ever hearing in its history.

"They ordered from Jollibee," said Supreme Court spokesperson Ismael Khan Jr., when asked what the justices had during a brief 20-minute break in the hearing, which stretched from Thursday afternoon to the early hours of Friday morning. The high court heard the petitioners and the respondents on the disqualification case against opposition presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr. It also invited four "friends of the court" to the oral arguments.

Khan said the justices did not have a full meal and settled only for a brief snack since they had to continue with the deliberations, which he said was the longest in the court's hundred-year existence.

"This is the first time in the history of oral arguments that it lasted for this long. This shows the sense of urgency with which the court is treating this particular case," Khan said.

The arguments started at 1:15 p.m. on Thursday and ended when Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. banged the gavel at 1:30 a.m. on Friday.

While the justices had sometimes heated discussions with contending parties in the case and the four *amici curiae*, some of the people watching from the gallery tried hard to keep warm because of the cold temperature caused by the session hall's air-conditioning system.

They rubbed and blew on their hands while

LONGEST/ A18

FPJ: Debate is just all talk

By Christine O. Avendaño, Melvin Gascon, Ben Moses Ebreo, and Juliet Labog-Javellana

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—Mareng Gloria and Pareng Raul should have a go at it first—a debate, that is.

This was opposition standard bearer Fernando Poe Jr.'s reaction when he learned that fellow presidential candidate Raul Roco had challenged Da King and the President to a political debate.

"Mabuti sila na magdebate muna (Let the President and Roco debate between themselves first)," Poe initially told reporters yesterday during a break in the motorcade and rally at the public plaza.

Poe, together with runningmate Sen. Loren Legarda and 11 senatorial candidates of the Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino, was in the province Friday on the first leg of a two-day sortie to Nueva Vizcaya and Isabela.

FPJ/ A18

56.35 TO THE DOLLAR

Peso falls to all-time low; Palace in panic

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PESO tumbled on Friday to P56.35 to the US dollar, its lowest ever in the country's history, due to rising political uncertainty ahead of the May elections and an imminent possibility of civil unrest should presidential front-runner Fernando Poe Jr. be disqualified by the Supreme Court.

The peso's sharp fall, which surpassed the previous record low of 56.22 on Jan. 29, panicked Malacañang which immediately sought a meeting on Monday with the country's top economic managers to try to halt the decline of the local currency.

"I will call the central bank governor and the secretary of finance regarding the peso. In the past, we have been able to arrest speculative movements," President Macapagal-Arroyo told a news conference in Zambales.

Ms Macapagal, a US-trained economist, said she would meet Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura and Finance Secretary Juanita Amatong on Monday.

"The peso is being burdened by politics. Our economy remains stable," she added.

The peso opened at 56.28 on Friday, hit an intra-day high of 56.26 and closed at a new record low of 56.35, shedding off 15 centavos from Thursday's close of 56.20.

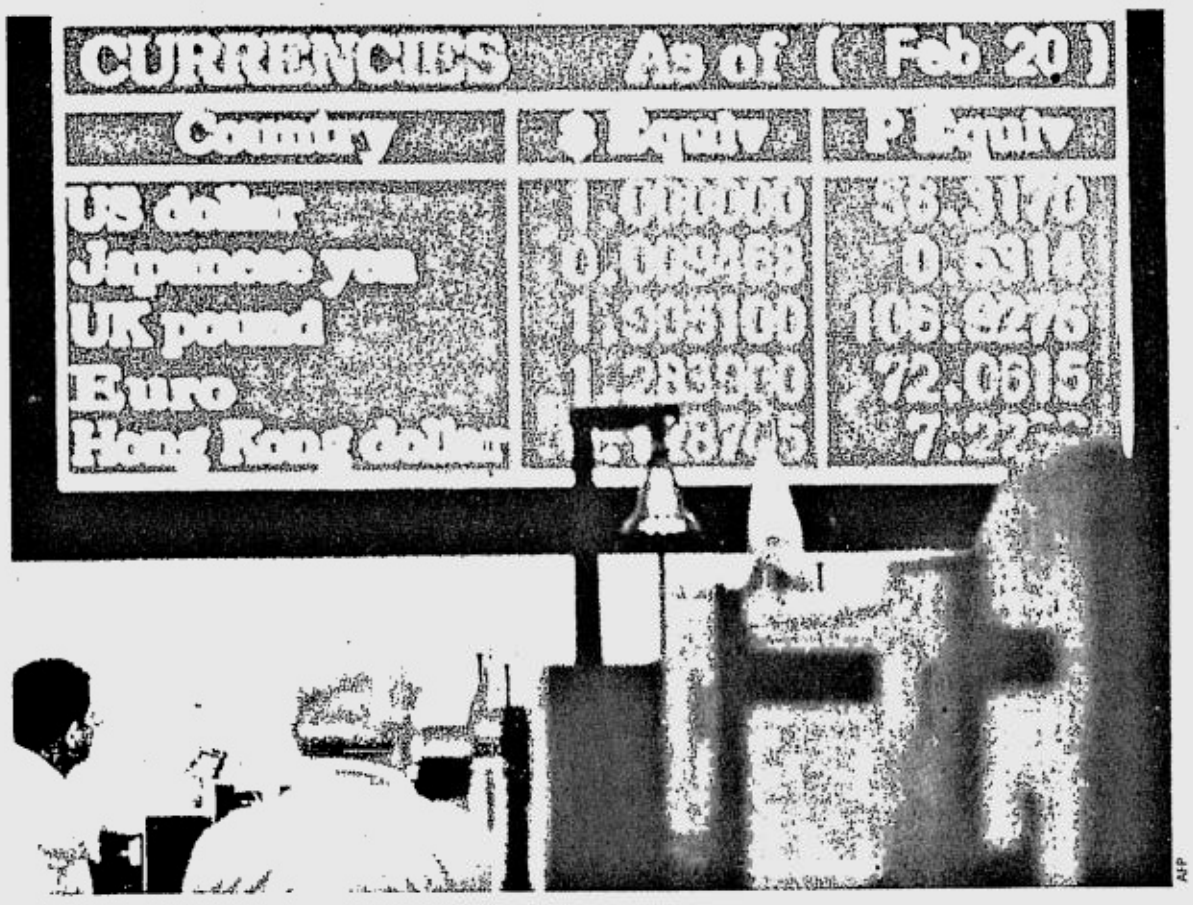
Buenaventura, however, said the peso's fall was temporary but reiterated that the BSP was keeping its options open.

"Our main problem is that we focus too much on the election ... What's wrong with an all-time low? It's not far from where we were two weeks ago," he told reporters.

Buenaventura attributed the falling peso to a host of factors such as political uncertainties, a shortfall in US dollar supply, low remittances from overseas Filipinos and heavy corporate demand.

"We are in a period when remittances are seasonally low and we are not getting enough portfolio inflows," he said, adding that some corporations were scrambling for dollars to cover future requirements, fearing the peso would further depreciate.

PESO/ A17



AFP

THE FEAR factor over the continuing political uncertainty as in the question of Poe's citizenship is being blamed in the main for the peso's fall, the lowest yet in the nation's history.

MA.PILAR "Pipay" Cruz: Generous, sweet, loving.

Missing Pinay's body found in suitcase in New Jersey

By Rita Villadiego, *Contributor*

NEW YORK—For 10 months the family waited, cried and hoped that she would one day turn up at her Manhattan luxury apartment and pick up the life she had abruptly left.

Last Wednesday, their biggest fear was confirmed.

The body of Maria Pilar "Marisol" Cruz was found in a suitcase buried under the concrete floor of a New Jersey house where a fugitive posing as a cosmetic surgeon once lived.

"I'm devastated. I'm still hoping it's not her," said Jose Navarro, Cruz's uncle who first reported his niece missing after her officemates at Barclays Capital told him she had not been seen in several days.

"This is very painful for us. We are hoping she's still alive. To know that Pilar had suffered is unbearable. I cried when I got the news about her body," said Jo Castillo, a New York-based cousin of Cruz.

Police believe Cruz died while undergoing surgery at the hands of a fake cosmetic surgeon, Dean Faiello, 44, of Newark, New Jersey.

An autopsy confirmed that the remains were indeed those of the 35-year-old Cruz whose breast implants helped police detectives in identifying her.

Cruz, who was working as an investment analyst at Barclays Capital, was last seen at the lobby of her West 50th St. apartment building on April 13, 2003.

Police followed a tip that one of Faiello's patients had died. They suspected that the victim could be Cruz.

Convicted in June 2003 for practicing without a license, Faiello was free on a $5,000 bail and was continuing to work at a skin clinic in Manhattan.

Before he was to be sentenced in September, Faiello fled and was believed to have been

MISSING/ A17

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Second FRONTPAGE

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RP warns France vs gunboat diplomacy

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday warned France against engaging in "gunboat diplomacy" as it hunts a Philippine-flagged vessel suspected of causing the death of five French fishermen.

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said the Philippines, "in the interest of justice," was willing to help find the 39,000-ton Seattle Trader, which had been blamed for sinking the trawler Bugaled Breizh off southern England last month.

"But let us practice due process and not gunboat diplomacy. All investigations must be based on facts and the rules of evidence," said Bunye in a statement.

Bunye was referring to the plan of the French Navy to accost the Philippine-registered freighter, whose owners have denied it was the one which collided with the trawler last Jan.15.

French authorities had said they had no evidence as yet tagging the Seattle Trader for the incident but the French Navy has launched a dramatic chase in the high seas for the Filipino freighter.

Earlier the French Embassy in Manila said it was receiving the cooperation of the Philippine government.

"We are in contact with the Philippine authorities. They are doing their best. We are very thankful to the Philippine authorities for the spirit of cooperation they are showing," an embassy spokesman said.

An underwater examination of the trawler suggested it had been struck by a large and powerful ship, probably a freighter.

Investigators in France have issued an international warrant to allow them to take their inquiry to foreign ports to hunt down those responsible, who risk five years in prison if found guilty of manslaughter.

The French government may send to Manila a fact-finding team to investigate the alleged involvement of the freighter in the collision, diplomatic sources said yesterday.

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The commission would be authorized to examine witnesses and ascertain facts surrounding the incident.

"They might send a rogatory commission to the Philippines to assist them in determining whether or not Seattle Trader could possibly have been the ship that rammed the French trawler," a DFA official told reporters.

The department has yet to receive a formal request from the French authorities to board the Seattle Trader, the source added.

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The Seattle Trader, now sailing through the Red Sea, is one of six ships being investigated for a possible role in the boat's sinking.

"We believe it's not that ship," company director Vicente Miranda said. "It is not a Filipino practice to leave the scene of an accident."

The freighter is headed for the Chinese port of Fangcheng and Miranda said the owners and crew would fully cooperate once the vessel has docked.

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Miranda also said the owners were willing to have the ship searched and inspected at a neutral venue, but not in the African nation of Djibouti which it is scheduled to pass on Sunday.

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The Canadian Coast Guard had inspected the freighter after the January collision at the behest of French authorities and found out the ship was more than 16 kilometers away from the Bugaled Breizh when it went down.

Unconfirmed reports said that the French trawler could have been hit by a North Atlantic Treaty Organization member-country's submarine, which was conducting naval exercise in the area when the collision took place. *Juliet Labog-Javellana, Jerome Aning and AFP*

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Poll-related violence alarms Namfrel: 10 days, 18 dead

By Blanche S. Rivera

ONLY 10 days into the official election campaign period, at least 18 people have died from poll-related violence, raising concern for the safety of volunteer poll watchers of the National Movement for Free Elections.

The Namfrel, which has been monitoring the polls since 1984, yesterday said the safety concerns were more critical in this election year than previously.

"I hope it is not more dangerous. It is dangerous enough. This is more intense, and the people are very passionate," said Namfrel secretary general Guillermo Luz in an interview at the Namfrel's national assembly at the Heritage Hotel.

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Luz said at least 11 Namfrel volunteers were killed during the snap elections in 1986. The group has not suffered any casualty in subsequent elections.

"We are hoping for peaceful elections. The results would be a factor in the stability after elections, so the people have to make a very informed decision," Luz said.

FAO award elates GMA

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

AN ELATED President Macapagal-Arroyo, receiving a medal from the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization yesterday, compared the award to the Nobel, the Oscar, even the more down-market Famas.

And she begged of her predominantly foreign audience to be allowed to deliver her acceptance speech partly in Filipino so she could address the Filipino nation at large.

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Ms Macapagal was cited for her program of modernizing agriculture to attain food security, social equity and greater job opportunities for Filipinos.

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"I accept this honor which is the women's equivalent of the Nobel Prize or the Oscar Awards for food and agriculture," she said in ceremonies at the Rizal Room attended by some foreign diplomats.

"I accept it with great pride as well as with deep humility. I am humbled as well to be in the company of the first luminaries who received this award like the late Mother Theresa, Queen Sirikit of Thailand, Prime Minister Helen Clark of New Zealand, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina of Bangladesh and Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike of Sri Lanka, among others," she said.

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Second FRONT PAGE

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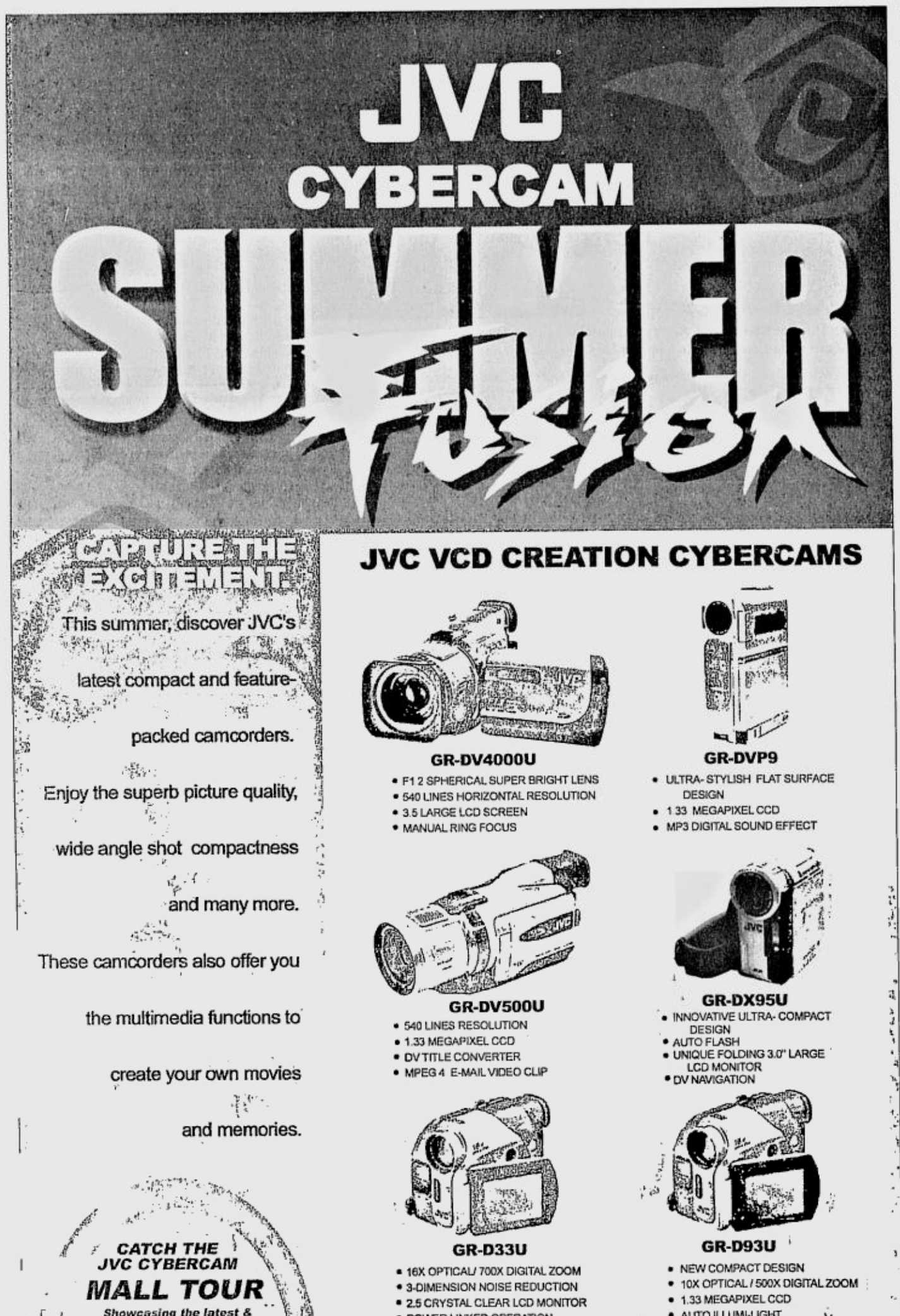

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BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Military, police officers support Lacson, says ex-PNP chief

By Norman Bordadora

LUCENA CITY— If action star Fernando Poe Jr. has actors and actresses rallying behind his candidacy, another opposition presidential candidate, Sen. Panfilo Lacson, has a number of retired and active officers and enlisted men from the military and the police supporting his presidential bid and are actively campaigning within the armed services for the opposition senator.

Retired Philippine National Police chief Recaredo Sarmiento disclosed that many retired officers from both the Armed Forces and the Philippine National Police would serve as campaign leaders and poll watchers for Lacson, a former PNP chief.

"There are retired officers from the Armed Forces and the PNP who support Senator Lacson. There are active officers as well," Sarmiento said.

These include, he said, retired general Mitch Templo and former AFP civil relations chief Bert Ampil.

"We are trying to approach those still in the active service to get them to support Senator Lacson. We will use the ballot (for reforms), not guns, not violence, not coups d'etat," he added.

But Sarmiento declined to name the active officers supporting Lacson, although Chief Supt. Francisco Zubia is almost a permanent fixture in the senator's campaign rallies. Zubia is on floating status at the PNP.

Lacson himself believes he has the support of many retired and active military and police officers and personnel.

"They are just not publicized," Lacson said.

"The retired officers have said that they will help in ensuring vote security. They would work to guard our votes," Lacson said.

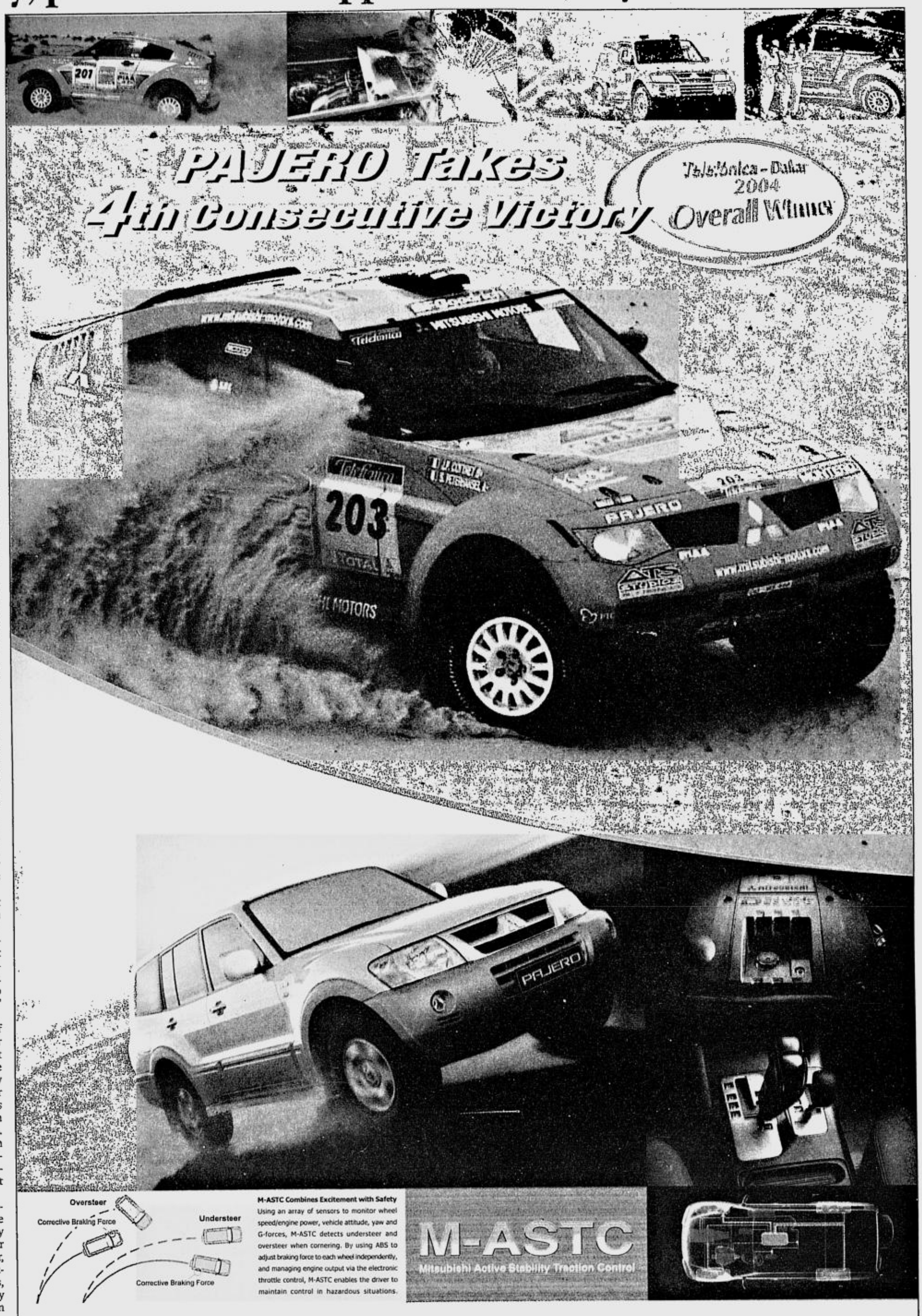
Sarmiento himself leads the Ping for President Movement in Quezon Province despite being closely identified with former President Fidel Ramos who appointed him PNP chief in 1994. Ramos, chairman emeritus of Lakas-CMD, is an avid supporter of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Sarmiento, a classmate in the Philippine Military Academy Class '66 of another Macapagal supporter, former Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, hosted Lacson's party at his farm-resort in this city.

Lacson's lone senatorial candidate Nueva Vizcaya Rep. Carlos Padilla, campaign leaders Makati Rep. Agapito Aquino and Iloilo Rep. Rolex Suplico and the rest of his campaign staff stayed at Sarmiento's Ouans farm after the first day of Lacson's Quezon Province hustings.

"I support Senator Lacson because I believe in his platform of discipline in government. I believe he can inspire the Filipino nation," Sarmiento said.

Among the campaign leaders in Quezon Province, said Sarmiento, are retired Cols. Bert Villegas, Oscar Carag and Tranquilino Aspiras, retired Maj. Ric Dequita.



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MITSUBISHI MOTORS

Bro. Eddie seeks HK-style anti-graft body

EVANGELIST Eddie Villanueva has vowed to form an independent anti-corruption commission patterned after Hong Kong's no-nonsense Independent Commission Against Corruption, if elected President.

"[The ICAC] has absolute power against corruption so it is feared by politicians," said Bro. Eddie in remarks at the First Arts Congress at the Folk Arts Theater on Thursday.

The ICAC has earned a reputation for being one of the most effective anti-corruption agencies in Asia.

Villanueva, who heads the Jesus Is Lord Movement Christian-based sect, is running for President under the Bangon Pilipinas party.

Bro. Eddie said that if elected, he would form a body patterned after the ICAC which works with other government agencies and non-government organizations to implement Hong Kong's anti-corruption laws.

He cited numerous noisy investigations of irregularities in government that went nowhere. Some of the cases involved Cabinet members and other high-ranking officials, he said in a statement.

He said he would appoint to his anti-corruption body people who have the integrity to "destroy the apparatus of corruption."

"There are many Filipinos with integrity and who really love their country. We will definitely put the right people there. They will not be hostage to any politician or businessman. The panel will be independent of all government offices, even the Office of the President," he said in a statement.

Villanueva has assailed Malacañang's Presidential Anti-Graft Commission (PAGC) for its failure to root out corruption.

He said the PAGC has failed to check official misconduct and thoroughly investigate cases involving various government officials because it is under the influence of Malacañang.

Villanueva's beef with the PAGC yesterday found an ally in a rival presidential candidate, Raul Roco.

Roco assailed the PAGC's handling of the case against former justice secretary Hernando Perez who was cleared by Malacañang after a "committee of peers" junked a PAGC recommendation that Perez be charged.

The PAGC found Perez liable for issuing a memorandum barring immigration authorities from disclosing, without his approval, the travel records of the President, Vice President, Cabinet members and legislators.

Roco said the PAGC was "foolish," noting that it had investigated him for alleged graft in late 2002, but up to now has not issued a resolution on the case.

"It's a foolish commission. They investigate, but I don't know if there's any conclusion because they don't give a copy. It's a kangaroo commission," Roco told reporters in an ambush interview in Tarlac yesterday.

Roco quit as education secretary in August 2002 after President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered him investigated for graft after the education department came up with posters bearing his likeness. ***With a report from TJ Burgonio***

Kenneth V goes under the knife today

By Cathy Babao Guballa

ON A HALO and a prayer.

Kenneth Villa, the 8-year-old boy afflicted with a rare mucopolysaccharide disorder called Morquio syndrome, will finally get his much-awaited surgery today at the Philippine General Hospital in Manila.

Kenneth's story first appeared in the INQUIRER on Oct. 13, 2003, a day before his 8th birthday. The young boy, had been abandoned by both his parents and was being attended to by maiden aunts. He has been hooked to a respirator and has been bedridden for the last four years with no medical attention after an unsuccessful surgery to correct the instability in the C1 section of his spine was performed in 1999.

Financial aid for Kenneth began to pour in after that first story. The article also caught the attention of Philippine Airlines Foundation Executive Director Carmen Sarmiento who brought Ken's medical records to neurosurgeon Dr. Willy Lopez.

Lopez agreed to perform the surgery on Kenneth with the objective of correcting the instability in his cranio-vertebral junction. However, before any surgery could be performed, it was essential to procure a pediatric halo vest that would ensure the immobilization of the head to prevent further injury.

KENNETH Villa puts on a happy face for doctors and visitors at the Philippine General Hospital in Manila.

After a second story was released in November, more financial aid, books and toys were sent by many generous souls who were moved by Kenneth's plight and inspired by his unsinkable spirit and unshakeable faith.

On New Year's Day, Kenneth had a bout of pneumonia but survived.

Last Monday, after an hour-long procedure under local anaesthesia, the vest was placed on Kennth's head by Dr. Lopez and spine surgeon Dr. Adrian Catbagan at PGH. For the first time, Kenneth is finally able to recline in bed and has a whole new view of the world which he had been deprived of for many years.

Last Wednesday, his doctors, who are all giving their services for free, gathered together for an interdisciplinary conference to discuss Kenneth's case. Other members of the team, undoubtedly the country's best, are pediatric cardiologist Edgardo Ortiz, who is chair of the Department of Pediatrics at PGH, pediatric pulmonologist Mike Javier, geneticist Menchit Padilla, endocrinologist Susan Padilla Campos, anesthesiologist Loreto Fellizar, neuropthalmologist Froilan Inocencio and neurologist Marissa Lukban.

The surgery today is expected to last approximately six to seven hours. It is admittedly a difficult one and its success can only be determined four to six months later. In the best-case scenario, Kenneth can be weaned off the ventilator and become more mobile. Then he has to wait for the fusion to take place. Only then can the halo vest be removed.

Kenneth, however, remains undaunted and in high spirits. He has placed his full trust and confidence in the doctors who care for him and in the Divine Healer from whom he draws strength.

If you wish to help in Kenneth's recovery fund, please call Heddie Villa at 0916-6000-548 or 457-7008. Letters of support for Ken as he recovers may also be sent to the PGH.

NEWSBRIEFS

Sex raps filed vs Yank for abuse of RP boys

WASHINGTON—A US man has been charged with multiple sex abuse offenses against boys from the Philippines and Cambodia and was scheduled to appear before a US federal court on Thursday, authorities said.

Attorney General John Ashcroft, Secretary of Homeland Security Tom Ridge, and United States Attorney for the District of Maryland Thomas DiBiagio announced the unsealing of a 10-count indictment charging Richard Arthur Schmidt, 61, with "multiple offenses involving the sexual molestation of minor teenage boys in the Philippines and Cambodia," a justice department statement said.

Schmidt was to appear in federal court in Alexandria, Virginia, just outside Washington at 1900 GMT, said assistant US attorney Vickie Leduc.

Schmidt, "who is on parole in the State of Maryland, has been convicted in Maryland state courts of crimes relating to the sexual molestation of minor teenage boys on three previous occasions," the statement added. *AFP*

Poe supporters mull Ayala protest

SUPPORTERS of Fernando Poe Jr. from the middle class yesterday vowed to stage a massive protest action possibly along Ayala Avenue in Makati City to pressure the Supreme Court into junking the disqualification case against him.

The Ayala rally is set the day before the high court is scheduled to release its ruling on the case questioning Poe's citizenship, said Arnold Obina, convenor the People's Alliance for Truth and Justice (PATJ). The coalition was expecting the decision next week.

Obina said groups under the "Pro-Democracy Coalition," an alliance of lawyers, doctors, businessmen, and other professionals, decided to move the mass action from the Supreme Court on Taft Avenue, Manila to give police no more reason to disperse its ranks.

"They say the Supreme Court is off-limits so we're taking our protest to Ayala," he told the INQUIRER. ***Christian V. Esguerra***

Broadcaster vs broadcasters

TARLAC CITY—Senatorial candidate Jay Sonza yesterday unleashed scathing criticisms against fellow broadcasters and leading vice presidential candidates Senators Noli de Castro and Loren Legarda.

Sonza, who is eyeing a Senate seat under the Alyansa ng Pag-asa ticket, took potshots at the two former ABS-CBN newscasters, saying they were unfit to assume the vice presidency because their experience consisted merely of reading scripts for TV news.

"He (De Castro) doesn't know anything except to read scripts. The same with Loren Legarda," he said at a student forum at the Tarlac State University, where the Alyansa slate stopped by after a tour at a market in Capas and a motorcade to the Tarlac City.

"They are my former employees and believe you me, they're not qualified to be the vice president of this country."

Sonza, host of a radio show and the "Mel & Jay" talk show on GMA-7, recalled that De Castro and Legarda worked under him while he was an executive producer and later, news director of ABS-CBN from 1986 to 1996. ***TJ Burgonio***

Asean eyes more cyber meets to save money

TO SAVE money and time, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations is considering to reduce its ministerial summits and hold its consultations more in cyberspace.

The proposal was aired by the Cambodian government during a meeting in Phnom Penh the other day between visiting Foreign Affairs Secretary Delia Albert and other Asean ambassadors.

Cambodia wants the number of Asean summit of ministers and dignitaries significantly cut down. It also wants a new program arrangements for the Asean Regional Forum.

"I think that this proposal should be really looked into, given the need to rationalize and streamline the numerous Asean meetings held every year, which are costly to the member countries," Albert said.

She said the current practice of using the facilities of the internet and e-mails by leaders in Asia-Pacific Economic Forum could likewise be looked into by the Asean. ***Jerome Aning***

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52nd to 131st Placers** - Outlay of ₱12,250 for each of eighty (80) scholars to cover tuition and other basic miscellaneous fees for ONE (1) semester in Accountancy at TIP Manila....**₱980,000.00**

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Bonafide public or private high school graduates with 80% or above general average or final grade in Math IV, Science IV or English IV qualify for the competitive examinations for the following grants:

1st Placer*- Outlay of ₱50,000.00 to cover fifty (50) monthly stipends of ₱1,000.00 per month through five (5) school years, plus an outlay of ₱154,000.00 to cover tuition and other basic miscellaneous fees throughout the Architecture program or in any of the five or four-year Engineering programs requiring board examinations offered at the TIP.....**₱204,000.00**

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REQUIREMENTS - Form 138; 2 Copies 2 x 2 ID Picture

	DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS	SCHEDULE OF EXAMINATIONS
PRES. ELPIDIO QUIRINO	Friday, April 16, 2004	Saturday, April 17, 2004
GOV. DEMETRIO QUIRINO, SR.	Friday, April 23, 2004	Saturday, April 24, 2004
SEC. GUILLERMO DE VEGA	Thursday, April 29, 2004	Friday, April 30, 2004

TIME OF EXAMINATIONS - 9:00 - 11:00 AM

PLACE OF EXAMINATIONS - TIP Manila and TIP Quezon City

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2.2	85% - 89%	Free Tuition Fee	1 Semester
2.3	83% - 84%	80% Discount on Tuition Fee	1 Semester
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Miraflor C. Tayong
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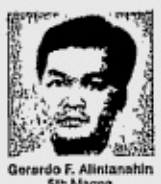

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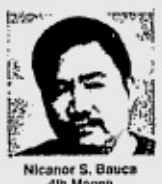

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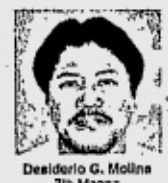

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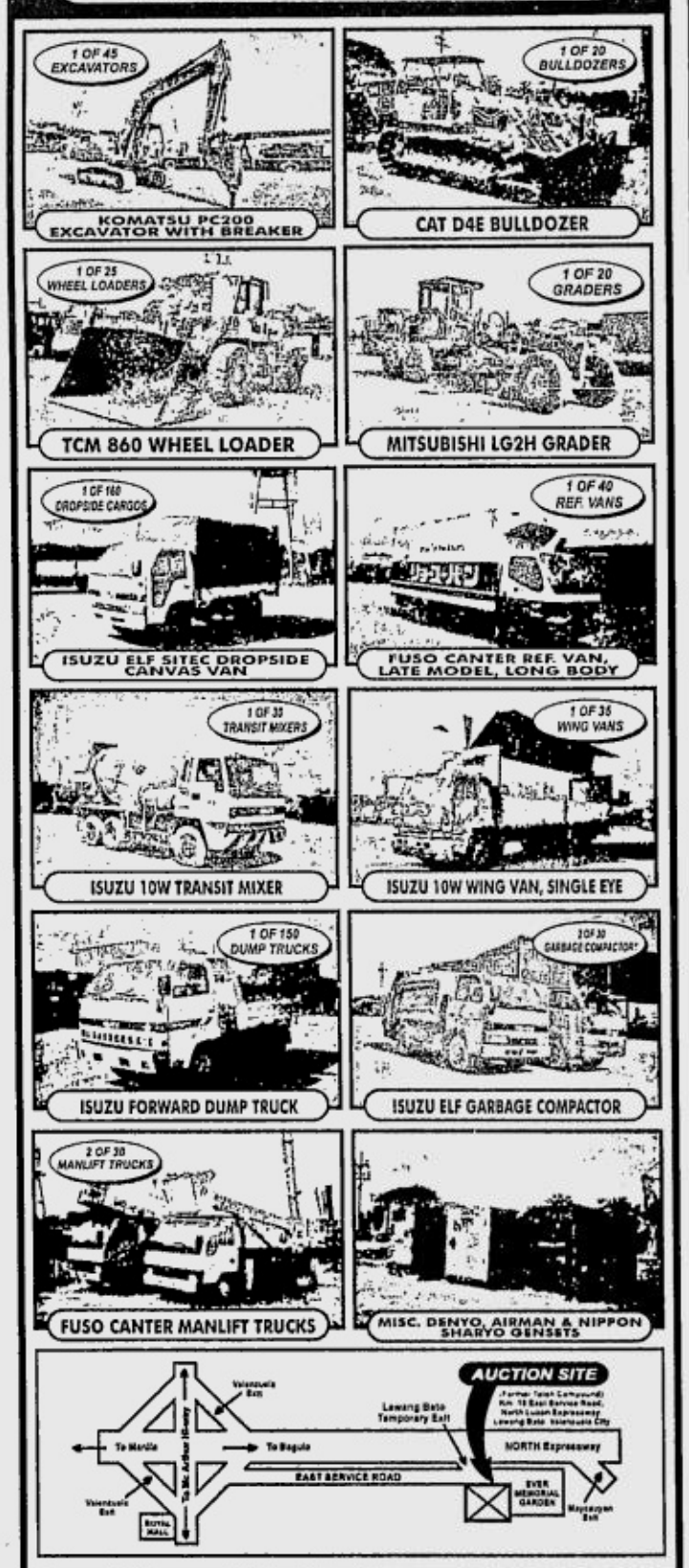

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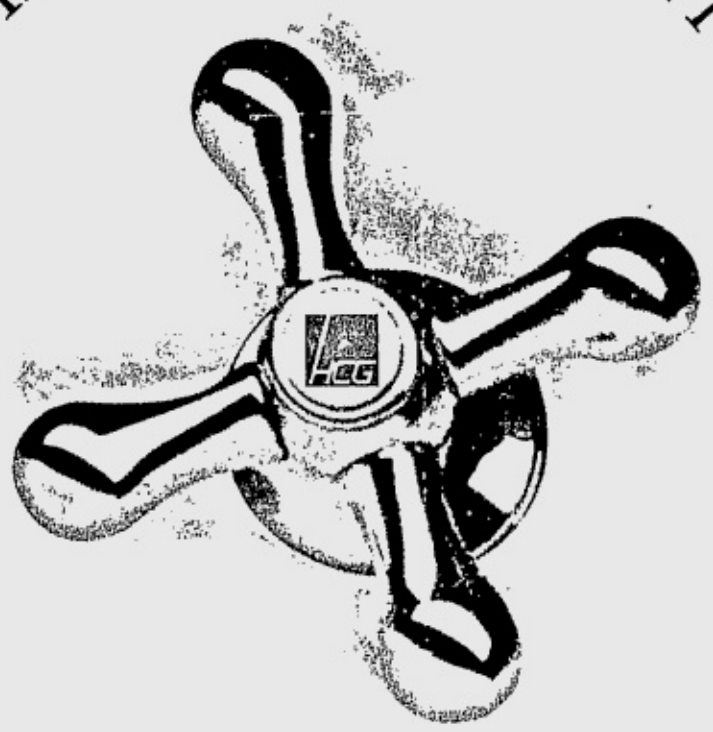
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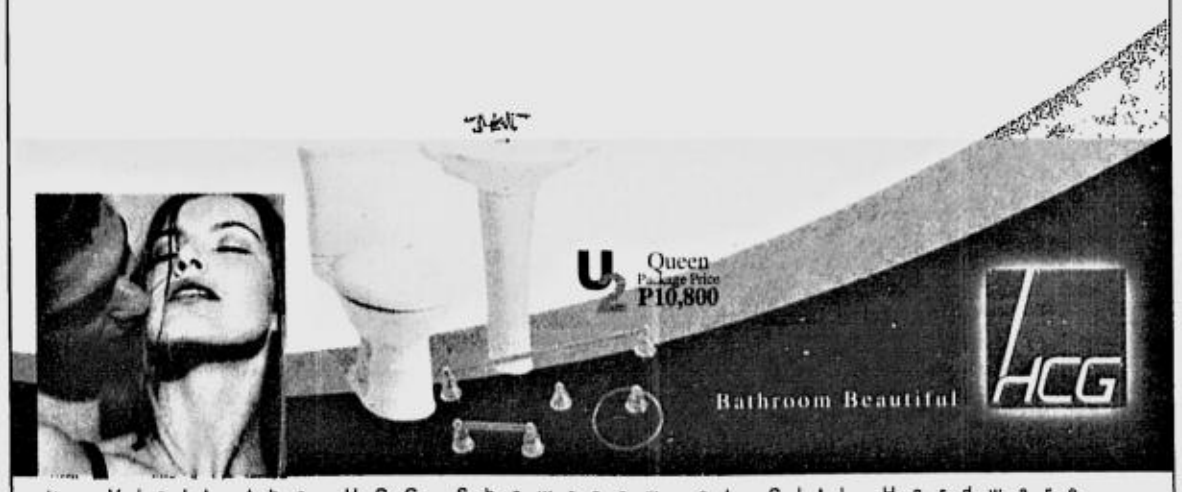

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By Christian V. Esguerra

FIVE suspected communist rebels were arrested on Wednesday in connection with the ambush that killed nine policemen and injured four others in Mandaon town, Masbate, earlier this week.

Policemen, backed by soldiers from the 5th Scout Ranger Company, arrested Jorbin Banoy, 54, Luciano Apues, 52, Ariel Apues, 24, Michael Dawaton, 21, and Aladin Sugiara, 32, in Sitio Layag, Barangay Tagpu.

Witnesses reportedly identified the suspects as members of a New People's Army unit that set up the land mine in Mandaon.

The victims, members of the 12-man of the 506th Provincial Police Mobile Group, were on their way to a nearby town to check on the reported killing of a barangay chair when they were attacked by around 60 communist rebels.

Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal, spokesperson of the Communist Party of the Philippines, later admitted that the ambush could have been staged by the NPA's Romullo Jallores Command.

The ambush drew sharp criticism from the Macapagal administration as it came shortly after formal peace negotiations between the government and the National Democratic Front in Oslo, Norway,

However, chief government negotiator Silvestre Bello III said the incident should in fact strengthen the resolve of both panels to pursue the peace talks and finally end 35 years of Marxist insurgency in the country.

In Camp Aguinaldo, the military warned yesterday that communist rebels are planning to attack police and military detachments and other vital installations in Rizal province and Metro Manila.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) National Capital Region Command said it discovered the NPA plot from documents that soldiers recovered after a fire fight with rebels in Antipolo City recently.

"The attack would include ambushes and harassment of police and military detachments," said Maj. Erwin Rommel Lamson, spokesperson of the NCR Command.

The NCR Command was reactivated in October last year and covers the cities and municipalities in the National Capital Region, six towns and a city in the Rizal province, two towns in Cavite and another town in Laguna. *With a report from Alcuin Papa*

Check in early, PAL advises passengers

PHILIPPINE Airlines has advised passengers on its international flights to check in at least three-and-a-half hours before scheduled departure from Manila and Cebu.

Passengers taking PAL domestic flights at Manila and Cebu were advised to check in at least two-and-a-half hours prior to scheduled departure.

The adjusted check-in times are necessary to ease passenger inconvenience on account of stricter and lengthier security checks at both airports, PAL said.

It will also relieve the expected congestion at the airports with the onset of the peak summer travel period next month.

PAL's check-in counters at Naia Centennial Terminal 2 in Manila are open to serve passengers starting 2:30 a.m. for domestic flights and 4 a.m. for international flights, daily.

For more information, visit www.philippineairlines.com.

Zeta Phi Sigma to mark 35th foundation day

THE ZETA Phi Sigma Fraternity will celebrate its 35th foundation day with a dinner-induction of members on Feb. 29, 5:30 p.m., Sunday, at the Tejeros Hall, AFP Commissioned Officers Country, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

The celebration will continue on March 1 at Kampo Uno, Quezon City Memorial Circle.

For details, call Myk Miguel at 671-4700 / 633-2325 (mobile) 0916-454-7778 or Atty. Cecil Fojas at 820-2119.

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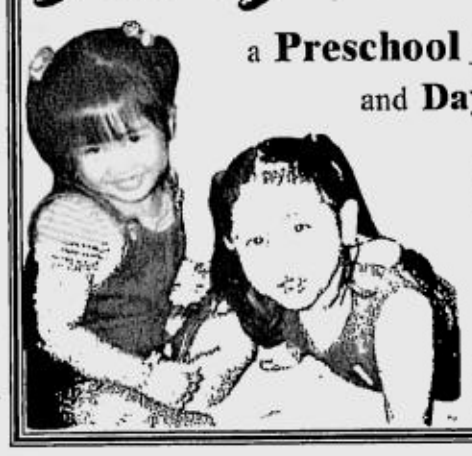

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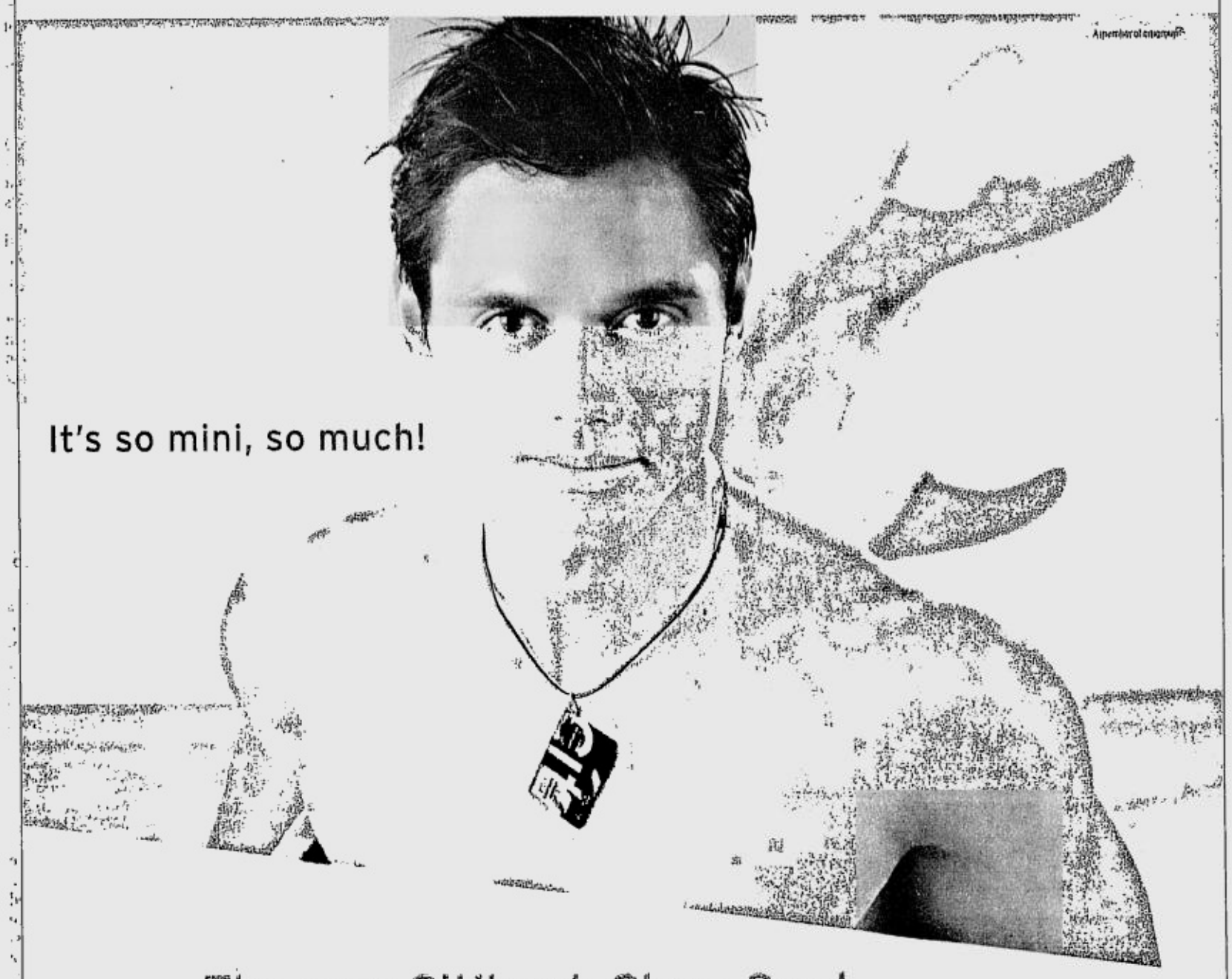

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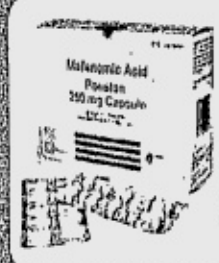

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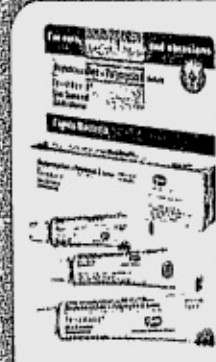

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

JUMPING BETWEEN SPECIES

2 Thai domestic cats die of bird flu

BANGKOK—Two domestic cats in Thailand died of the same bird flu that has killed 22 people in Asia, scientists said on Friday, increasing fears that the virus can move between species as easily as it has between countries.

Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra urged pet lovers in Thailand, fabled birthplace of the prized, champagne-colored Siamese cat, to stay calm but said they should think twice before feeding stray or domestic animals with potentially infected meat.

"Please don't panic," Thaksin told reporters in the capital, Bangkok. "If animals eat raw, infected chicken, they will have no immunity. Please do not feed your animals uncooked chicken."

With the human death toll from the virulent H5N1 bird flu virus standing at 22 in Vietnam and Thailand, attention has switched to the number of different species it is able to infect.

At present, H5N1 appears to spread easily only among birds, but health experts fear it might mate with another animal or human flu virus to produce a highly contagious and deadly variant that could unleash a global human flu pandemic.

The two dead cats, which were among three of 15 cats tested from a house near an infected chicken farm in Nakorn Pathom, 60 km west of Bangkok, are the first cases of the virus to be found in domestic animals.

"We found H5N1 in two of the three cats," said Teerapol Sirinaruemit, a veterinarian at Kasetsart University's animal hospital who conducted the autopsies.

"They might have caught the virus from eating chicken carcasses or from live chickens that had bird flu," he said.

Besides killing humans and millions of wild and farmed birds across Asia, the H5N1 strain showed this week it can jump to other species after a rare clouded leopard at a zoo near Bangkok was confirmed as having died of bird flu.

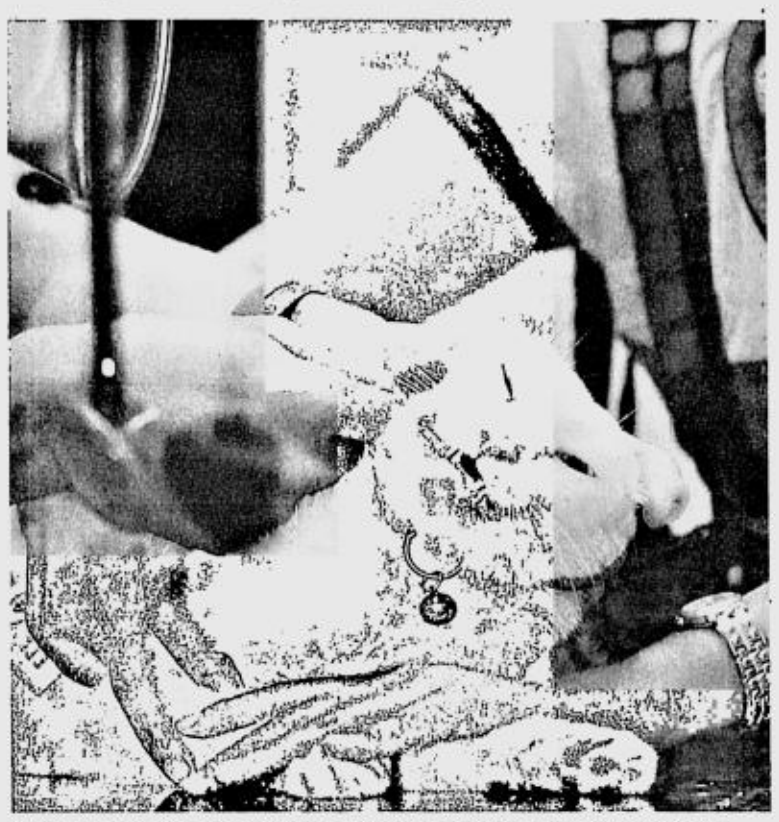
Reports this month that the virus had spread to pigs, which have an immune system similar to humans', turned out to be false.

"Clearly the more animal species that are infected with the avian flu virus, the bigger is the risk to humans they may catch the virus from animals," Bjorn Melgaard, the World Health Organization's Thailand representative, said.

"We need to be very, very watchful."

As word spread, the health ministry said it had sent officials to check on anybody who had been in contact with the dead cats, while pet owners took immediate precautions, switching meals from cooked chicken to beef.

"Steak has become my cats' daily meal these days," said Paranyoo Sukkasean, a 34-year-old nurse who spends $513 a month on food for her own seven cats and the 100 stray dogs in her Bangkok neighborhood. *Reuters*



A THAI vet checks a sick cat at the Animal Hospital in Bangkok, Feb. 20. The deadly H5N1 strain of bird flu has been detected in a leopard, a tiger and two domestic cats in Thailand in the first confirmed cases of the disease in the cat family, researchers said. AFP

Bird flu detected on Canada farm

VANCOUVER, British Columbia—Bird flu has been discovered on a chicken farm in British Columbia, but officials on Thursday quickly dismissed fears that the disease could spread to humans.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency was still conducting laboratory tests on the disease, but officials said it had been identified at the H7 strain of avian influenza, the same type of strain found recently in Delaware.

Gilles Dulac, a CFIA veterinarian and virologist, said it appeared the disease spread to the broiler chicken farm from wild birds, "which is a normal, frequent reservoir for this disease." "There is no link with importation from the United States," Dulac said.

According to the CFIA's Web site, the H7 strain has not been linked to illnesses in humans, and is not the same strain at the center of an outbreak in Asia that has been linked to the deaths of 22 people in Vietnam and Thailand.

"Historically, H7 has never been involved in serious human diseases," said Dulac. "It's not infectious to humans."

The agencies are testing to confirm if disease is a low or highly pathogenic version of the virus, but officials said it appeared it is of the low pathogenic version.

The farm near Abbotsford in southwestern British Columbia has been quarantined to keep the disease from spreading, and about 16,000 birds will be "depopulated within the next few days," officials said. *Reuters*

Iran hardliners set to win polls, end reform era

TEHRAN—Iranians began voting in a disputed parliamentary election on Friday, overshadowed by a ban on most reformist candidates and a crackdown on pro-reform media.

Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, among the first to vote, said the Islamic Republic's enemies were trying to deter young people from voting—an apparent reference to a boycott by banned reformist lawmakers and student groups.

"You see how those who are against the Iranian nation and the revolution are trying so hard to prevent people from going to the polls," Khamenei told state television.

"I do not think these enthusiastic young people will be prevented from fulfilling their duty."

Some 46 million Iranians aged 15 and over were entitled to vote for 289 deputies, the interior ministry said. The 290th seat, for the earthquake-stricken ancient city of Bam in southeastern Iran, will be contested later.

Islamic conservatives seem certain to dominate the new assembly after a watchdog panel of unelected clerics disqualified 2,500 mainly reformist candidates and another 1,179 contenders withdrew. That leaves 4,446 candidates.

State media, controlled by the conservatives, pulled out all the stops to boost the turnout, broadcasting patriotic songs and images of mass voting in past elections, to legitimize a poll that pro-reform President Mohammad Khatami has branded "unfair."

The election could put an end to the president's efforts, repeatedly obstructed by unelected hardline clerics, to reform and liberalize the austere Islamic Republic.

Disenchantment with his failure to achieve more during seven years in office means many voters are likely simply to stay home, handing victory to his conservative opponents.

"I won't be voting and everyone I talk to says the same," said Mohsen, 44, a retired military engineer from poor south Tehran. "They (politicians) just talk but they haven't done anything for the people. They only think about themselves." *Reuters*

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Responding to numerous complaints of air & noise pollution in the Philippine skies, Sen. Robert S. Jaworski, Chairman-Committee on Environment & Natural Resources of the Philippine Senate, made a surprise visit at the IAU Aviation Center. Shown here being assisted by IAU President, Dr. Jovenal B. Toring (right), Sen. Jaworski discusses with aerospace engineering students & airline pilots the subject of minimizing noise pollution from various aircraft that take off and land at Mactan Cebu International Airport.

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Haiti rebels declare 'independent country'

GONAIVES, Haiti—An armed gang and former soldiers who seized control of a Haitian city declared themselves an independent country on Thursday and named a government and president as a US-led delegation prepared to intercede in the conflict.

Up to 20,000 people watched in the main square of the western city of Gonaives, or from slum rooftops, as a former supporter turned embittered foe of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, Buter Metayer, arrived for a rally. He jogged in like a boxing champion with his arms in the air.

Wearing a white suit and gold glasses, he led the swarming, cheering crowd in chanting, "Alone we are weak, together we are strong, together we are the resistance." The rebels declared themselves the independent country of Artibonite, the name of the rice-growing region around Gonaives.

They named a government with Metayer, who drove police out of Gonaives this month, as president.

In Washington, US Secretary of State Colin Powell said for the first time that the United States was open to the possibility of Aristide stepping aside as a way to resolving a long-running political impasse that erupted in full-blown armed revolt on Feb. 5.

The United States later agreed to lead a delegation including French and Canadian envoys to Haiti on Saturday to push Aristide to fulfill pledges he made this month to the opposition and mediators designed to end the impasse.

They included setting up a broad-based advisory council to the government, appointing a new prime minister and disarming gangs aligned with political parties.

Powell said Aristide's departure was not currently part of any possible peace plan, but he added in an interview with ABC radio, "You know, if an agreement is reached that moves that in another direction, that's fine."

The US Department of Defense said it would send a military team of three or four people from U.S. Southern Command in the next two days to assess security at the American Embassy in Haiti.

Aristide, a diminutive former parish priest, who led Haiti into democracy after decades of dictatorship but now faces accusations of political violence and corruption, made it clear he had no intention of going.

"There is no doubt that I would be willing to die if that is what it takes to defend the country," Aristide told hundreds of police officers at a ceremony for more than a dozen dead police in the National Palace in the capital, Port-au-Prince.

Up to 50 people have died in the revolt.

Aristide told the police that with "peaceful force, moral force, civic force, constitutional force and democratic force," they would defeat the rebels.

The rebels have vowed to take Port-au-Prince, but many doubt they have the firepower despite outgunning the country's 5,000 police in the towns that have taken.

In Gonaives, Metayer's men drove out police on Feb. 5 after months of violence triggered by the killing of the gang's original leader, Metayer's brother Amiot.

Guy Philippe, a former police chief of Haiti's second-largest city, Cap-Haitien, whom Aristide once accused of fomenting a coup, became chief of the armed forces. *Reuters*

A FORMER commander of Haitian police and new rebel military chief Guy Phillip (center) takes part in a march into the city of Gonaives, Haiti, Feb. 19, which was taken over by an armed gang opposed to President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. Around 50 people have been killed in the armed revolt in the poorest country in the Americas, where incomes average a dollar a day. REUTERS

Woman who leaked US spy plans will not be charged

LONDON—A British intelligence official accused of leaking US plans to spy on UN Security Council delegations in the run-up to the Iraq war is likely to have legal proceedings against her dropped, a report said Friday.

The charges against translator Katharine Gun, 29, will not be pursued so as to avoid potential embarrassment to the British government, The Guardian newspaper said, citing unnamed sources familiar with the case.

Gun was due to have appeared Monday at the Old Bailey criminal court in London to enter her plea on charges of disclosing intelligence information without authorization, but the hearing was postponed until next week.

She was sacked from the Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ), Britain's electronic intelligence monitoring center, in June, two months after the Observer newspaper exposed a memo from US intelligence asking for GCHQ's help in spying on six UN Security Council member states.

The six—Angola, Cameroon, Chile, Bulgaria, Guinea and Pakistan—each wielded crucial votes on UN resolutions intended to green-light the US and British invasion of Iraq that took place in March.

According to The Guardian, Gun has said she will plead not guilty to leaking secrets because her actions were justified in trying to prevent the deaths of British and Iraqi troops in an "illegal war."

As part of her defence, she would seek disclosure of confidential information on the legality of the war issued to the British government before the conflict by its top legal advisor, Attorney General Peter Goldsmith.

Prime Minister Tony Blair and other ministers have always insisted Goldsmith backed the war's legality, but his reasoning has never been released.

According to the newspaper, the government would most likely refuse to release the advice, allowing Gun's lawyers to argue their client could therefore not get a fair trial.

The long delay in bringing Gun to trial indicated that there had been divisions between GCHQ and the government over the wisdom of the case, The Guardian added. *AFP*

S. Francisco sues California over gay wedding ban

SAN FRANCISCO—Defiant San Francisco went on the offensive late Thursday to defend its gay marriages and sued the state of California claiming that laws barring same-sex matrimony are invalid and unenforceable.

But Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger insisted the wave of more than 2,800 marriages carried out by the city over the past week were simply illegal and would not be recognized.

The suit is the latest twist in the explosive saga of the free-wheeling US city's move a week ago to issue marriage licenses to gay couples, despite a California state law limiting marriage to one man and one woman.

Gay couples from across the country have been officially wed here since San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom launched his hotly-contested campaign of civil disobedience to challenge what he says are unconstitutional and discriminatory statutes.

"The rights afforded by California's constitution clearly trump laws restricting marriage to opposite-sex couples," San Francisco's top legal officer, City Attorney Dennis Herrera said after filing the suit.

"San Francisco seeks an unequivocal declaration from the court that state provisions banning same-sex marriage are unconstitutional," he said.

The counter-suit comes after two conservative groups filed their own legal attacks on the same-sex marriages, seeking to have them immediately halted and to have unions already carried out be declared invalid.

While two San Francisco judges separately declined the groups' demands for injunctions, a second hearing in one of the cases was due Friday and could result in a court order halting the gay marriages that are drawing same-sex brides and grooms from across the country to San Francisco.

The city's suit contends that three sections of the California Family Code prohibiting marriage between gay couples are void, unconstitutional and unenforceable because they discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation and gender.

Herrera said a declaration on whether banning same-sex marriages is unconstitutional was needed to ascertain whether the city was within its rights to issue marriage documents that have been altered to include the terms "spouse and spouse" instead of "bride and groom."

But Schwarzenegger and California's top legal officer made it clear the state would not recognise the altered same-sex marriage certificates issued by San Francisco.

"I will abide by the oath I took when I was sworn in to uphold California's laws," Schwarzenegger said in a statement.

"The marriage certificates submitted to the Department of Health Services by the City and County of San Francisco fail to meet legal standards."

On Wednesday US President George W. Bush said he was "troubled" by the same sex marriages and the fact that the judges had not immediately stopped them.

California's Democratic Attorney General Bill Lockyer said Thursday that while he supported equal protection for all, he, too, was bound to enforce the law.

"As a lifelong defender of civil rights, due process and equal protection for all, I do not personally support policies that give lesser legal rights and responsibilities to committed same-sex couples than those provided to heterosexual couples," he said. *AFP*

Singapore cell phone thefts up

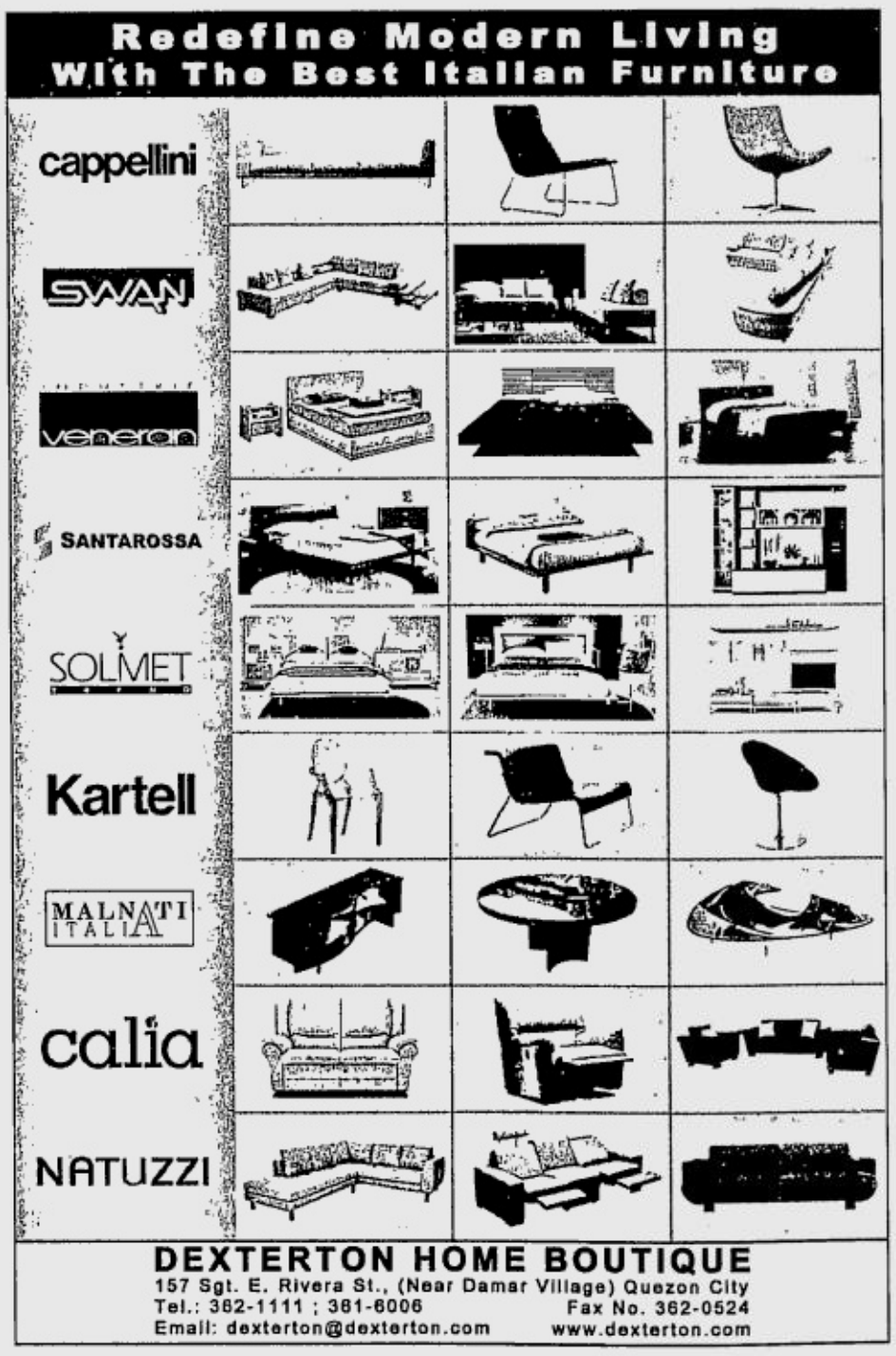
SINGAPORE—Out of work 23-year-old Ernida Mohd Yussof would scout shopping malls for vulnerable teenagers sporting Singapore's most ubiquitous fashion accessory, an expensive mobile phone.

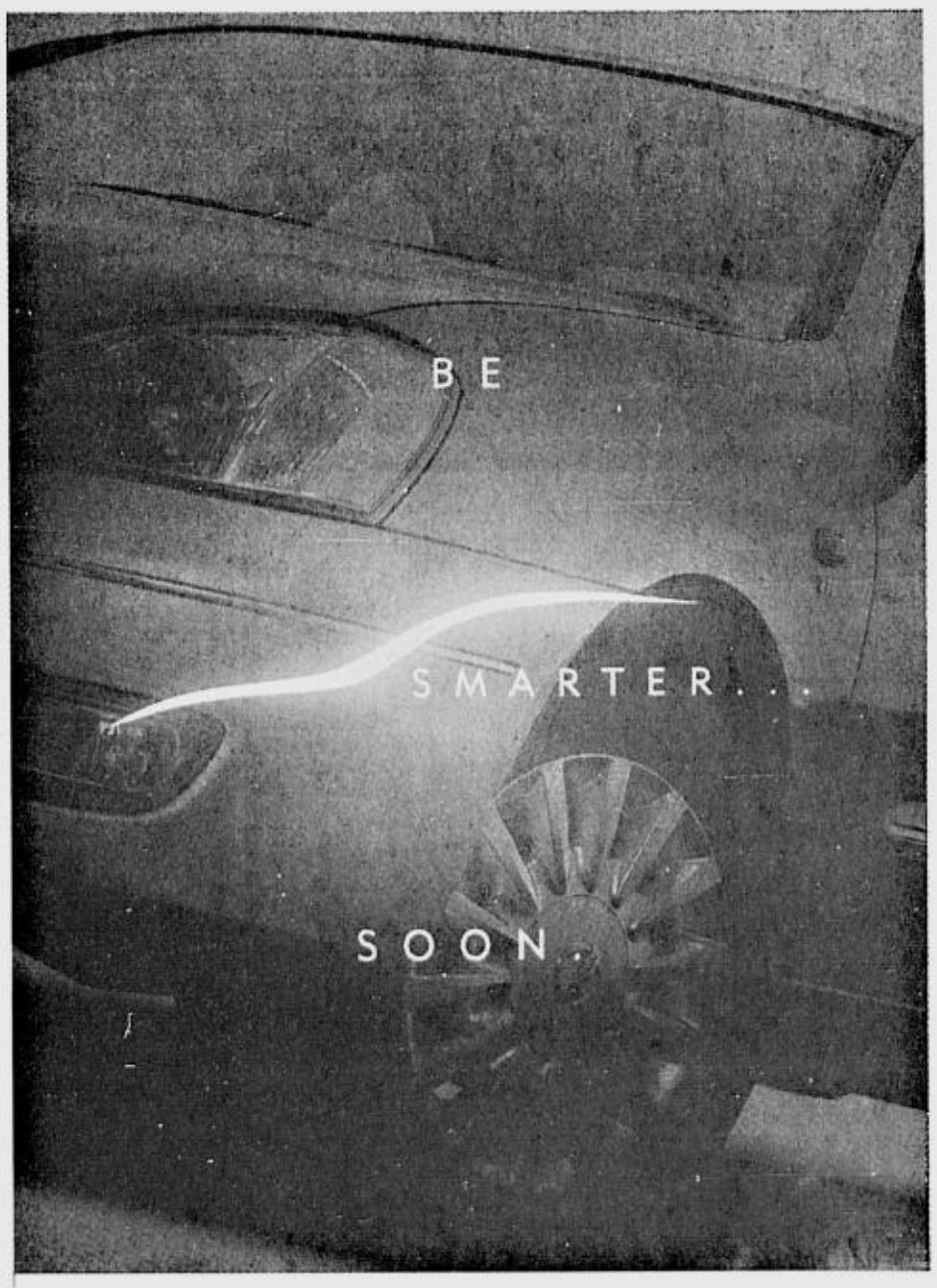
In one of the world's safest and most technology-obsessed nations—where four out of five people own mobile handsets — Yussof was at the vanguard of a crime spree authorities say spread alarmingly fast last year.

Releasing a battery of statistics on Friday showing serious crimes including murder and robbery rising for a second straight year in one of the safest nations on earth.

But police said theft of mobile phones was the fastest growing crime of 2003.

In 2003, there were 2,975 reported cases of robbery and theft of handphones, up 28 percent from 2002, said Raja Kumar, director of the police intelligence department. *Reuters*





FBI'S BIGGEST SCALP

Former Enron CEO Skilling indicted for fraud

HOUSTON, Texas—Former Enron chief executive Jeffrey Skilling was indicted in US district court Thursday for allegedly defrauding investors by cooking the company's books prior to its collapse in 2001.

The 50-year-old Harvard-educated businessman was taken into court with his hands cuffed behind his back after turning himself into the Federal Bureau of Investigation early Thursday.

He pleaded not guilty to 35 counts of fraud and insider trading and was released on a $5-million bond.

Outside court, the once high-flying executive, known for his arrogant manner, remained silent as his lawyers protested his innocence.

SKILLING

"Jeff Skilling has nothing to hide. He didn't steal. He didn't lie. He didn't take anyone's money," said one of his lawyers, Dan Petrocelli, claiming that prosecutors were looking for a "scapegoat" for the corporation's failure.

Skilling is the highest-ranking Enron Corp. official to be indicted by federal prosecutors probing the company's collapse in December 2001 amid a massive accounting scandal.

He has steadfastly denied any knowledge of wrong-doing during his tenure as chief operating officer, and later chief executive officer, telling a congressional hearing that he believed the company to be in good financial health when he left in August 2004.

But the indictment alleges that Skilling collaborated with others to mislead investors, regulators, analysts and credit ratings companies through a series of accounting "gimmicks" including the use of off-balance sheet partnerships.

He and Enron's then-accountant Richard Causey, "oversaw a massive conspiracy to cook the books at that company and to create the illusion that it was a robust, growing company with limitless potential," said deputy US attorney general James Comey.

In fact, "Enron was an increasingly troubled business, kept afloat by a lifeline of gimmicks and maneuvers... gimmicks and maneuvers that amounted to an out and out fraud."

Four months after Skilling resigned as CEO, the energy trader filed for bankruptcy when it became clear that the company had concealed billions of dollars in debt and grossly inflated its earnings through accounting tricks.

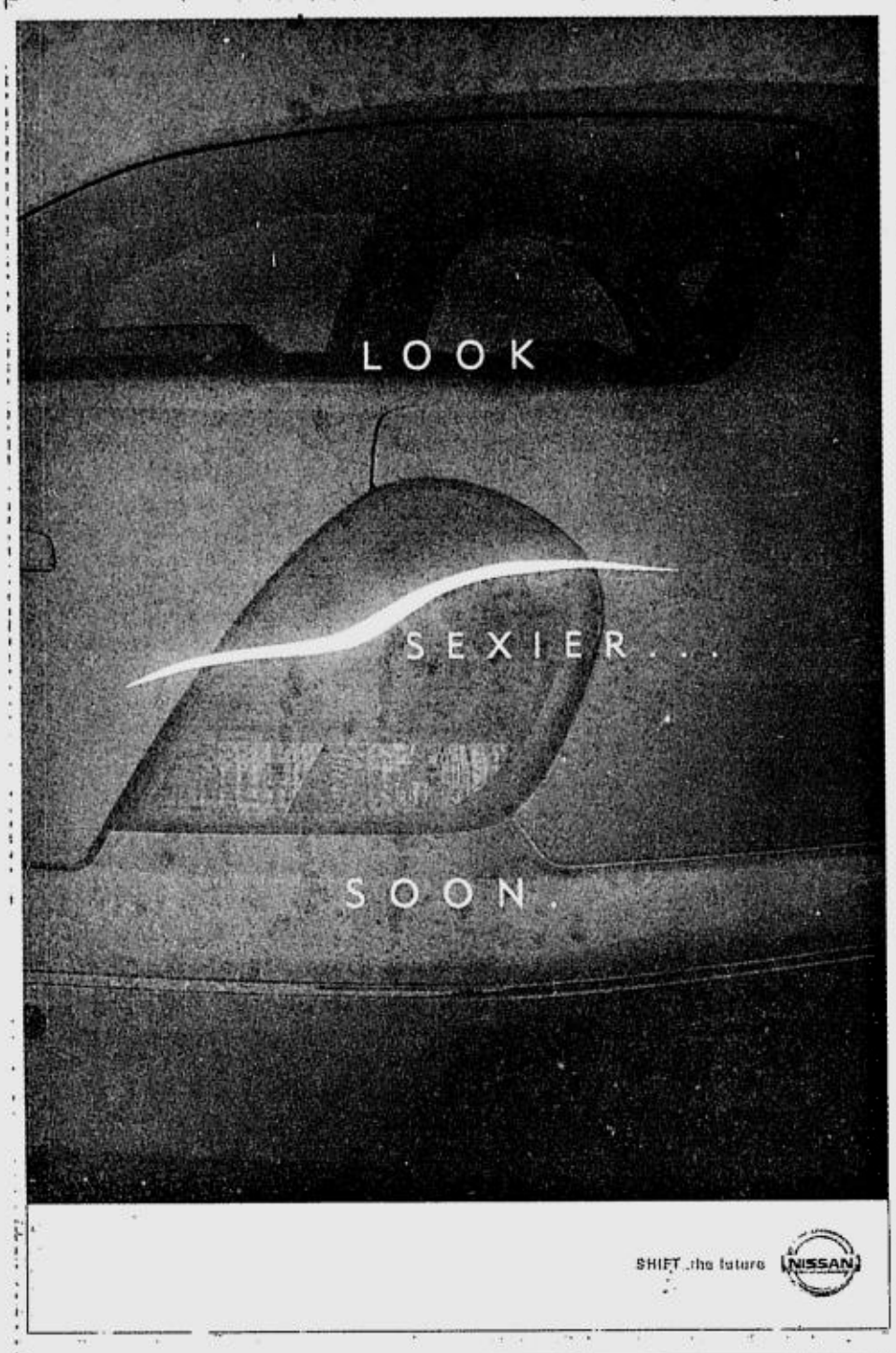
Its collapse left some 20,000 creditors about $67 billion out of pocket and cost thousands of employees their jobs and life savings.

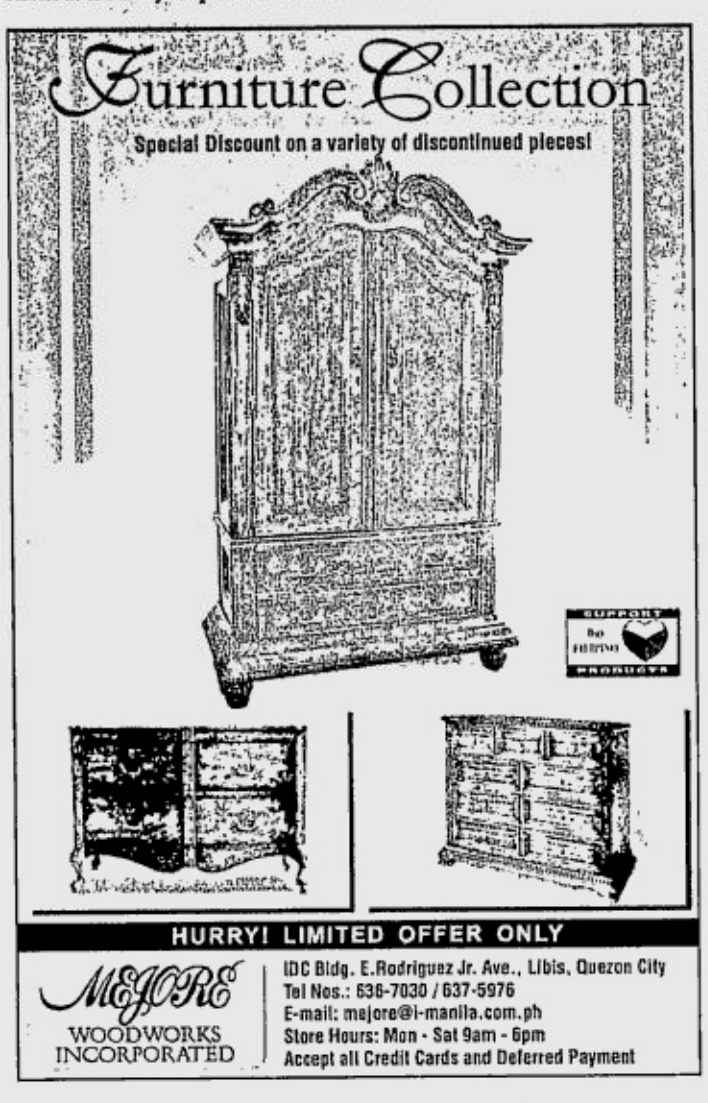
It was the biggest US corporate bankruptcy on record at the time and a huge embarrassment to President George W. Bush's administration which had close ties with the company's chief Kenneth Lay.

Skilling's indictment comes a month after former chief financial officer Andrew Fastow struck a plea deal with prosecutors, and agreed to cooperate with the two-year federal probe into the company's collapse.

Fastow's plea requires him to serve 10 years and forfeit $23 million in cash and assets, but 96 other counts against him will be dismissed if he satisfies prosecutors that he has shared with them everything he knows.

The development was expected to lead to the indictment of the company's two highest-ranking officials: Skilling and former chair Ken Lay. *AFP*





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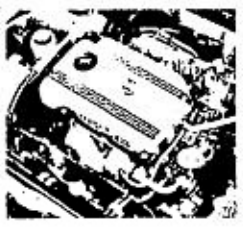

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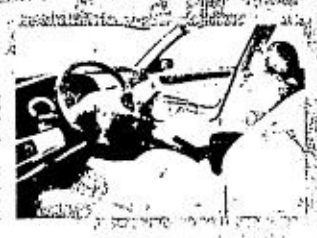

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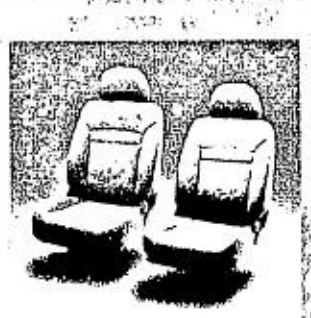

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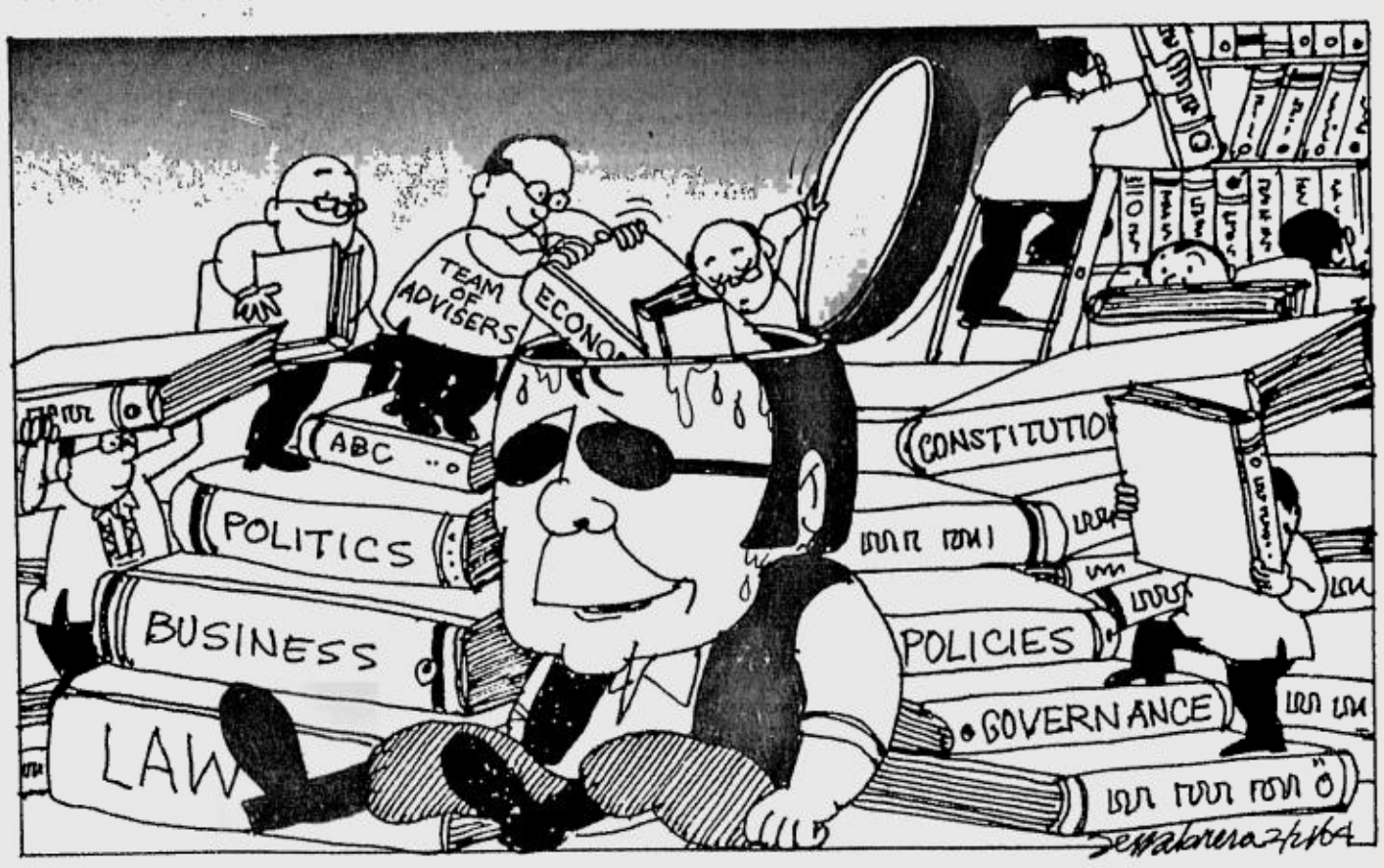

Incurable doubt

EDITORIAL

THE KOALISYON ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino has paraded a team of experts who will advise opposition candidate Fernando Poe Jr. on the full range of issues he will have to address if he is elected president. The 19 members of the team, which includes well-known economists like Raul Fabella, dean of the UP School of Economics and Bernardo Villegas of the University of Asia and the Pacific, were said to have been recruited by Poe to help him craft his economic program as well as his platform of government.

"We have what we believe is the most potent group of economists and planners that can be formed," said KNP spokesman, Rep. Francis Escudero, who described the advisers as "intelligent, experienced, pragmatic and patriotic." Poe's erstwhile spokesman, Sen. Vicente Sotto III, said the advisers liked Poe and were willing to help him. "The mere fact that they were impressed with him should give peace of mind to those who are skeptical of his capabilities as a leader," Sotto added.

Not at all. If the intention was to assure and impress the skeptics, particularly those in the business community, the long-awaited announcement didn't achieve its purpose. If Poe looked up to his advisers and they were impressed by him, business leaders didn't sound very enthusiastic about either of them. Donald Dee, vice president of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, conceded that the advisers were "certainly qualified" to give expert advice, but added that he wished there were more people "with actual experience" in business and government. Raul Concepcion likewise indicated that he would have been more comfortable if there were more "seasoned personalities" on the team to help Poe run the government and manage the economy.

Poe's advisers see some exciting possibilities in a Poe presidency. Benjamin Espiritu, chair of the Business and Governance Department of De La Salle University, said: "I really believe we need to have an honest person in government whom the public can trust so that people will invest and pay taxes. From there we can generate jobs and then others (*sic*) will fall into place." Villegas said he agreed to be one of Poe's advisers because he was "sincere" and he had the "trust and confidence of the people."

But among businessmen, trust and confidence in Poe's capacity to govern are in short supply. From the time it was rumored that he would seek the presidency, every rise in Poe's political fortune has been followed by a fall in the value of the peso and the prices of stocks. Poe's "social covenant" or economic platform (or what his people tried to pass off as one) failed to excite the business community. Now his team of advisers is being dismissed by business leaders as about as exciting as an economics lecture on a hot and lazy afternoon: long in theory and short in experience. It is beginning to look as if the skepticism of the business community about a Poe presidency has become incurable.

Some of Poe's advisers are trying to dispel such doubts by pointing to his good track record as a movie producer and his ability to learn. Villegas, who disclosed that he gave Poe lessons in economics, said the actor found it easy to absorb what he was told. Victor Macalincag, a former finance undersecretary, said Poe "has depth of mind, knows how to analyze problems and knows his priorities."

Spoken like good teachers talking about the class genius. But if Poe were so bright, why did he not finish high school? If he had his priorities right, why did he not strive to earn a degree? Would these professors care to lecture about priorities to the farmer who toils from dawn to twilight and scrimps on food just so his child can finish secondary education? What about those who do menial jobs to finance their college education, should they just drop their books and rely on their native intelligence, their honesty and their sincerity to bring them to the highest office?

Any academic would be flattered to have a leading presidential candidate learning at his feet. But anyone who says effective governance can be crammed into a few brief lessons is a fraud. And assuring people they would best be served by someone who is ill-equipped and unprepared to decide on complex matters of state is the biggest hoax of all.

Businessmen know this and they are afraid to take the risk. Poe's academic advisers, like his political supporters, are urging the Filipino people to just close their eyes and take a leap into the unknown.

The importance of being Poe-gi

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

I'VE been following the Democratic Party primaries in the United States from the time Howard Dean became the front-runner early this year only to be unhorsed by John Kerry in Iowa and other states. With his impressive victories against the other candidates, Kerry seems to have already clinched his party's nomination as its standard-bearer in the coming presidential election.

There are personality factors that have influenced the choice of the voters, like Kerry's heroism in Vietnam and the natural likeableness of John Edwards. Wesley Clark was criticized for turning Democrat after he was slighted by the Republicans and later when he compared Kerry's rank with his own as combat general. Joseph Lieberman and Dick Gephardt, veterans of past elections, received scant consideration because they were not "new faces." It was generally required that the aspirants be personally likable to the electorate, which is the reason they have tried to put their best foot—and face—forward.

But the candidates have also had to take categorical stands on the various issues considered important by the American electorate. It is not enough that they want to be president; they must tell the people what they intend to do if they are elected. Each of them is advocating particular projects and programs, although all are for taking a closer look at President Bush's decision to go to war against Iraq that has not revealed a single weapon of mass destruction.

In our country, elections are based on personalities, not issues. In fact, there is no dispute on the issues among the several political parties in contention. Every political platform is an expression of motherhood aspirations like national sovereignty, condemnation of corruption, improvement of the economy, eradication of criminality, protection of human rights, reform of the judiciary, and other similar banalities.

The political parties themselves have no distinctive ideological divisions or even practical identification. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's party is now known as the Lakas-CMD, whatever that means. Fernando Poe Jr.'s Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino includes not only the original Erap hoodlums but also some of their former mortal enemies. Raul Roco's Aksyon Demokratiko counts as its allies Reporma and Promdi, originally separate independent parties. Panfilo Lacson claims to be the legitimate nominee of the LDP but has been elbowed out by Edgardo Angara as its president. The two Eddies have only added to the general disarray.

Until the 1987 Constitution established the multi-party system, there was not much confusion among the voters when only two dominant parties slugged it out during the elections. This started when Manuel Roxas defected from the Nacionalista Party and formed the Liberal Party as his vehicle to Malacañang. True to its name, the Nacionalista Party continued to proclaim its message of nationalism while the Liberal Party preached a new allegiance to the United States. Although there were occasional deviations from the system, it was this political difference that divided the two major parties then and gave the voters a clear choice between them.

In the present state of the presidential campaign, the electorate has not been asked to choose among the several platforms because none of them is substantial or new. All the candidates do is sing and dance, wear ethnic costumes, eat with their fingers, clench their fists to show they are brave, deface the environment with posters, and travel by air, sea and land to shake the hands of voters usually assembled by *hakot* for costly inducements. The audience doesn't know what these stumpers stand for except God and country, and the poor like them, of course, at least during the campaign.

For lack of controversial issues, many voters are simply using their own criteria for choosing their candidate. To many of them, the mere appearance of the aspirant should be the controlling consideration, which is why Poe is *llamado* as the inevitable and overwhelming shoo-in. He is *pogi*. There is no doubt that the fellow is handsome although he has seen younger days. It is true that he is no match for Aga Muhlach when it comes to looks alone, but can Aga punch and shoot like FPJ? That is the question.

FPJ has nothing to offer but his mish-mash of ghost-written goals and his experience in the movies, but his idolaters say these are enough to qualify him to be President of the Philippines. It matters not that during one rare occasion when he spoke in English, he referred to an adviser as "an expertise in agriculture" and that he usually pleads a previous appointment to escape a question that has stumped him. When trapped and cannot say "I have to go," he will mumble "I don't know about that," as when he was asked to comment on the plummeting peso.

Has politics in this country so deteriorated that we have to scrape the bottom of the barrel to choose the occupant of the highest office in our land? As Irving Berlin said in his song, "Heaven help the Philippines!"

Illusions

COMMENTARY

Lourdes Didith V. Mendoza
Institute on Church and Social Issues

THE OTHER week a congressman I was interviewing for a research project commented that our society should reduce our politicians to irrelevance. I was mildly surprised, not so much by the statement, but because the comment came from a politician.

It has wisdom, but the advice came a little too late. Our society has already managed to glorify our politicians so that now they have taken on larger than life personas, and most of us seem to be smitten by them. Recently, we even heard businessmen remarking on the charming personalities of the presidential candidates on national TV. It seems that instead of us putting politicians in their place, we have been put under their spell.

Charm, as the saying goes, can only get you too far. You better have something good to offer, because you can't hold that close-up smile forever.

But the campaign period is in full swing, and not one presidential candidate has offered anything new. Which just emphasizes the need for us to stop giving undue attention to our candidates. We have already turned the coming national election into a battle of personalities where candidates are judged on the basis of their looks, their "winnability," and their glibness.

It is high time for us to elevate the presidential election to higher ground by situating it in its proper context. We seem to perceive national elections as the be-all and end-all of our democracy.

Elections are important—that is a given. Through them, politicians are held accountable for their actions. They give us the opportunity to choose leaders who will be able to implement what the majority who voted for them perceive to be good. We should ensure their credibility. But the national election is not the only democratic process that can lead this country to greatness, or at the very least, to stability.

First, in a divided society also considered to be damaged, as ours is perceived to be, candidates fielded will only be representing a certain sector's interest, not necessarily the national interest. They will be spouting rhetoric about the good of the nation, but they can never be counted on to deliver. It will all be merely talk and posturing.

Second, in a confused and poverty-ridden society such as ours, people will be basing their preferences on what holds their attention at the moment, not on what could be ultimately good for the whole nation. They will base their choices on what satisfies their wants now, and not on what they really need in the long-term.

Third, in a society that cannot even uphold the values it so often talks about, such as justice or integrity, where power and wealth are the name of the game, elections will be nothing but a useless exercise of putting the same people in power. They can offer no real change. Many elections have already come and gone, but the same names are up there in power, and we are still poor.

Fourth, in a society battered by corruption and whose institutions are weak, there is no guarantee that the will of the people will be reflected on the counted ballots. And even if it is, you can be sure that the streets will be filled again with protestors, which will further weaken our institutions.

If we think that national elections are the only way to change our society, if we think that the winners of the next election on the national level will be able to galvanize the rifts in our society, mend it and make it whole, then we are merely dreaming. We will be basing our response to the coming national elections on illusions.

In reality, what are being offered to us on the national level are mere half promises which will never be redeemed. On the national level, what we have seen are politicians dancing from one party to another to form protective alliances. On the national level, we have seen few politicians really working and delivering results. At a time when our society is divided against itself, and an undercurrent of anger, distress and desperation runs through it, choosing a national leader from a mediocre list of candidates is not the only option to put things in order. It may help, but it is not the only answer.

It is our fantastic and nowadays fanatical faith in elections on the national level that has in some way hindered us from seeing the concrete development initiatives done locally, propelled by small players from local governments and civil society groups. It is our illusion of having a great president that has stopped us from seeing the real leaders around us, and has prevented us from joining their ranks, or even just encouraging them. It is this illusion that one person can save us that has stopped us from working to make a concrete contribution that will benefit this country, or at least our immediate communities. It is this illusion that a hero can rescue us that has made us a people who vote blindly, and has made politicians bigger persons than they really are.

We should reduce the politicians to irrelevance, one congressman advised. The only way we can do that is by waking up, looking around us, seeing what else can be done, and not hanging our hopes on illusory heroes.

Misrepresentation

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

OVER DIMSUM, I recently met with Victorino Fornier, 52, who filed the disqualification case against Fernando Poe Jr. with the Comelec and elevated it to the Supreme Court, and his elder brother, Andresito, 58, who acts as his counsel. Andresito recalled how FPJ's lawyer Estelito Mendoza, became visibly flustered at the Comelec when he noticed, perhaps for the first time, that the two documents he submitted in FPJ's defense bore one glaring fact: that his client was born a full year ahead of the marriage of his parents, Allan Poe and the American Bessie Kelley. This makes FPJ born out of wedlock and therefore illegitimate, and under Philippine jurisprudence, the Forniers insist, illegitimate children follow the citizenship of their mother. This makes FPJ a US citizen at that time, and therefore not "natural-born," as the Constitution demands of a candidate for president. "Good that I was wearing new glasses that day," recalls Andresito with a big laugh, "When I saw those two documents Mendoza submitted, I told him, 'Thank you!'"

* * *

So why did the Forniers file that disqualification case? To uphold the rule of law, they said. They stressed that 87 percent of the people ratified the Constitution with this stringent demand from presidential candidates, and that the Charter is "something permanent," while popularity is something "temporary." The only way this requirement may be removed is by a constitutional amendment, they stressed, but this has to be ratified again, just like the Constitution itself in February 1987. Victorino stressed, "we are not going against the people, as the FPJ supporters claim. On the contrary, we are enforcing the will of the people."

* * *

Their case versus FPJ involves his alleged lack of qualification, not being a natural-born Filipino citizen, and his having misrepresented that he was natural-born in his certificate of candidacy filed on Dec. 31, 2003. They insist that FPJ already knew as early as Jan. 20, 1992, the date of the true copy of his parents' marriage contract that Mendoza submitted to the Comelec, that he was an illegitimate son of an American mother. Therefore, insist the Forniers, FPJ lied when he stated in that certificate of candidacy that he was a natural-born citizen. But should he have known that detail prejudicial to his presidential candidacy? "He is presumed to know the elementary principle that a child born out of wedlock is illegitimate," replied Andresito, adding that FPJ's "continuing erroneous insistence on his legitimacy and natural-born status underscores continuing knowledge and deliberate misrepresentation."

* * *

Victorino was the original petitioner and he got two lawyer friends to appear as his counsel. When he filed the case, his elder brother Andresito was out of town, and as the latter recalled, he wasn't too enthusiastic about it at first, having suffered so much tension himself when he filed the disqualification case against presidential candidate Alfredo Lim in 1998. Andresito recalled that he picked up the suggestion of his Ateneo law professor, Fr. Joaquin Bernas, over TV in 1998 that perhaps one of his students can question the issue of Lim's citizenship once and for all. "I had a gripe against Lim for when he was chief of police of Manila, he arrested an Australian client of mine without a warrant; when I complained to him, he threw me out of his office," said Andresito.

But when he heard that Victorino had filed the case against FPJ, he told himself, "What the heck," and he filed as Victorino's counsel, but not before clearing his move with his partners in the Fornier, Fornier, Sano and Lagumbay law firm; now the entire firm is involved in this celebrated case. Joked about how the FPJ case has landed them in the front pages, Andresito noted that this is not the first time. He prosecuted Melchor Javier, to whom the Mellon Bank mistakenly remitted a million dollars years ago, and defended the notorious late Col. Rolando Abadilla.

* * *

Victorino relates that the "explosive" material on FPJ mysteriously landed at their law office reception desk some time in November 2003; intrigued, he sought the help of National Archives director Ricardo Manapat on their authenticity. Eventually, when he decided to challenge FPJ, he realized that given Manapat's "past history," he could be a "possible ally." "I had faith in the documents he supplied me and I still do" stressed Victorino, "but even without them and just based on the documents supplied by Mendoza himself, our case is strong."

The Fornier brothers, who come from a town in Antique named after their uncle, the late fourterm Rep. Tobias Fornier, denied that their fellow Ateneo Law alumnus Mike Arroyo and The Firm had anything to do with their handling the anti-FPJ case, or that they are being funded by the former. "I hope they would help out," quipped Andresito, adding that given the expenses they have run into on the FPJ case, "If someone gives me a donation, I will accept it." He also pointed out that he represented Veronica Rodrigo against Mike A. in the Senate hearing on his alleged corruption, "and those two really hate each other."

* * *

Victorino related that when the case blew up, he found himself one morning, despite his lack of religiosity, at the Malate Church, looking up at the picture of the Holy Shroud. "There is the symbol of faith," he told himself, just as there must be a meaning to all that's happening now in the FPJ case. On the eve of the oral arguments before the high court, Victorino said he'd "pray in my own fashion." But Andresito, who is a member of the Brotherhood of Christian Businessmen and Professionals, a national Catholic renewal group, admits he's the more religious one: "I pray for FPJ, and even for Sotto, Angara."

Pained laughter

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

"MARRIAGE of Inconvenience," the play that, according to its own publicity "mirrors (Singaporean) society's prejudice and hypocrisy," and starring Bart Guingona and other Filipino actors, is being staged at the Black Box Theatre in Fort Canning Park.

Little known to tourists, Fort Canning sits atop a hill that rises in the middle of a busy commercial district. Nearby is Clark Quay and Boat Quay, riverside areas that once housed factories "gentrified" into shops, restaurants and open-air dining areas and now a popular gathering place for both tourists and residents.

Remarkable, then is the decision of Singaporean authorities to preserve Fort Canning as an oasis of greenery and tranquility in the city. The winding paths are lined with towering tropical hardwoods and gigantic ferns, while flower beds are laid out in formal patterns. It was too dark to make out the scenery, though I have no doubt in daytime the gardens would be a burst of colors.

The Black Box Theatre is in a corner of a charming white colonial-style building that also houses a restaurant, culinary academy and banquet facilities. Even as a performance of "Marriage of Inconvenience" was going on, the same premises also played host to couples celebrating Valentine's with a romantic dinner on the terrace overlooking the Singapore skyline, and a raucous Indian-style wedding.

After the play and the customary razzing of our friend Bart for his new-found status of "heartthrob of Singapore," we decided to walk down from Fort Canning to Clark Quay for a late dinner of satay, seafood and beer.

The tables at the outdoor eating area were full that Valentine's evening, but couples and groups, us included, stood about, waiting for seats. I couldn't help noting how skilled Singaporean authorities and entrepreneurs have become at creating tourist attractions.

* * *

THE MAIN reason I flew to Singapore was to take part in one of the "Talks on the Hill," small roundtable discussions sponsored by the Asia-Europe Foundation that draws a cross-sectoral participation from countries in Asia and Europe. The topic of our "Talk on the Hill" was the relationship between Church and State, details of which I will discuss in later columns.

Anyway, the organizers went out of their way to plan dinners that would give us extraordinary experiences.

The first night, we went to the Swisshotel, the tallest in Singapore with a restaurant on the top floor that provides sweeping nighttime views. It took the offer of flowing wine and fine cuisine to woo us from the floor-to-ceiling windows and the view.

The next evening, we joined the former Spanish Ambassador to Manila Delfin Colome, who is now executive director of the foundation, and his wife, at the spectacular "Cliffside" restaurant at the Sentosa Resort and Hotel.

Surrounded by the lovely pool and the coastal waters, the restaurant is a homage to water, with pathways seemingly floating on serene ponds and rippling "water walls" around the tables.

It helped, too that Ambassador Colome remains an avid friend of the Philippines, visiting Manila regularly since his daughter has married a Filipino, and quite up-to-date on the goings-on here. Truly, a most wonderful experience!

* * *

JOINING my friends at their hotel soon after my arrival, I decided to walk the few blocks down Orchard Road, which is lined on both sides with gigantic, world-class malls and shopping centers and towering hotels. I felt heady, feeling a burst of pride that this gleaming palace of commerce and prosperity was created by fellow Asians. But at the same time, I felt an undertow of depression and despair. If Singaporeans can accomplish this feat, I asked myself, why can't we Filipinos manage to match their accomplishment? What did the residents of this tiny city-state have that we Filipinos don't?

Part of the answer was provided by my friends, Joy and Guido Delgado and Aleli and Chito Salazar, who flew in together and shared a taxi ride to the hotel. When their driver found out that they were from the Philippines, he laughed, with a note of derision, they noted, and asked them: "So, are you Filipinos going to vote for another movie actor?"

This is a view shared by many educated upper class Filipinos, and one they do not hesitate to voice out, Guido noted. So when a Singaporean taxi driver articulates it, does it mean that he shares the same intellectual and social status as the Filipino elite? Or are even ordinary Singaporeans intellectually superior to the large mass of Filipino voters expected to vote for FPJ?

* * *

"MARRIAGE of Inconvenience," the play about Singaporean-Pinoy relations that I wrote about yesterday, may have been a humorous attempt to cast light on Singaporeans' hypocrisy and prejudice. But it also had a disturbing subtext for Filipinos.

What is the Filipino like in the Singaporean playwright's view? The Filipino is perpetually in need, with a family constantly demanding succor and support back home. Dizzy the maid needs to work to pay for her sick father's hospitalization and her brother's education. Even Gabriel, the male lead played by Bart Guingona, works as a male nurse but had to do a stint as a male escort to earn more money for his dying grandfather.

Filipinos are unreliable, at least in the popular mind as gleaned from the play. The female lead's parents are constantly at her back to get tougher on her maid, who constantly breaks her curfew and comes home drunk. And when her father finds out about her boyfriend's dark past, he smirks and says: "What can you expect from a Filipino?"

We Pinoys laughed along with the audience, but there was a note of pain and chagrin even in our laughter.

A tale from Guiwan

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

IN THE YEAR 1521 Magellan in his route to the Far East, discovered several islands in the South Seas before arriving in the island of Mindanao. In 1686 the pilot Francisco Lascano discovered an island in the southern edge of the Marianas that he called Carolina in honor of King Carlos II, that couldn't be found for some time even if Alonso Soon went looking for it from the Marianas.

In the year 1696, 29 natives of Palao in two small vessels were hurled by the eastern winds that predominated in those seas to the town of Guiwan in the island of Samar. They had embarked to go to a neighboring island but were brought out to the open sea by a strong wind that prevented them from landing in the island they wanted or in any nearby ones. The efforts they made to reach the shores of one of the islands they knew were in vain and they navigated for 70 days without finding land and losing all hope, hungry, without water or provisions, resolved to abandon themselves to fate and land in some western island. Eventually they sighted Guiwan.

A native of the place who was on the beach, concluded that these were lost strangers and signaled them with a white cloth to direct them to the channel to avoid the reefs and sand banks that would shipwreck them. They were frightened by the signals and tried to return to the open sea but failed because the wind was bringing them to shore. As they neared, the man from Guiwan motioned to them indicating the route and seeing that they did not understand and would do the opposite, dove into the water and swam to one of the boats with the intention of guiding them to safety. When they saw him they threw themselves into the water, even the women with their children, frightened by that lone man. He followed them and got into the other boat guiding them to port. The people were paralyzed allowing him to guide them, and looking at themselves as prisoners.

Once they landed they were greeted by the townspeople with warmth and given wine and food. They were fed rice cooked in water which they did not recognize and after taking some grains believed them to be worms and threw it away. They were given some roots and these they ate with pleasure. Two women who in earlier times had also been brought to Guiwan by the winds were called to serve as interpreters. One of them recognized some of her relatives and started weeping.

The parish priest was informed of the novelty and welcomed them to the town and when they saw the respect with which he was treated, they thought he was the king of the place so they prostrated themselves before him begging for their lives. Their grief moved him to pity and doing what he could to calm them, he caressed the children who were still being breastfed and the rest who were a little older.

The natives of Guiwan offered them the best hospitality, persisting in bringing them to their houses, assisting them with supplies, food and clothes. The parish priest set the condition not to separate couples and at least two had to be together so that they would not be lonely.

Of the 35 who left, only 30 remained since five had died in transit and another who died after their arrival and his baptism. Calmed by the warmth and hospitality with which they were received and recovered from their fatigue, they said that their country consisted of 32 islands, three of them inhabited only by birds. Questioned as to the number of inhabitants, they grabbed a handful of sand and said they were innumerable. They gave them the names of some of the islands such as Samululutap, Saron, Valayay and the biggest where the king, to whom all the chiefs were subject, had his court, Lamurrec. One of the women in the group was the daughter of the king and retained her regal manner distinguishing her from the rest.

Her husband's body was painted with stripes that formed different figures. The rest also bore colored stripes, some more than others but none of the women or the children. There were 19 men and 10 women of different ages resembling Filipinos in coloring and features. The men wore no clothes but a species of girdle that covered their private parts and thighs twined several times around the body, tied in front and left hanging at the back.

The women were dressed in the same manner but with the girdle reaching the ankles. Their language was different than that of the Filipinos or those of the Marianas and their accents and pronunciation resembled the Arabs'. The most important woman had as adornment various rings and necklaces of tortoise shell and others of unknown material that resembled gray amber but was not transparent.

They survived the 70 days at sea by eating fish and drinking rainwater that they caught with coconut shells. They ran when they heard dogs barking and were terrified when they saw a cow, being unaccustomed to either animal since their islands had a scarcity of four-legged animals. They also recognized only sea birds and chickens although they did not eat their eggs.

They appeared to live a nearly rustic life in their land, reduced to hunting for their food but without any fixed meal times, merely following their pangs of hunger. They had great respect for their king and chiefs, obeying them strictly. They were bewildered a lot by the government and customs of the Europeans never having met any foreigners before.

(Data from Pedro Paterno, Historia de Filipinas, Vol. 5)

Penniless

YOUNG BLOOD

Clarisse Espiritu Albia

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

TODAY is no different from yesterday, except perhaps for the fact that I'm having instant pancit canton for my lunch. Yesterday, it was a banana cue, the other day, a sandwich. I have been living on P20 a day for the past few days already. To add to the mounting frustration, I have yet to print a 10-page term paper due this afternoon. If there's one thing I hate, it's having no money.

I used to think that I must be destined to be poor for the rest of my life. Among the five children in our family, I was the only one who went to school with a P10 allowance, fare included. I was still in elementary school that time, and it was okay then. But when I entered high school and got the same amount, it became irritating, not to mention awkward for me, since I had to co-exist with some rich kids. I demanded an increase and my parents, believing that giving too much is never a good way to motivate a child, agreed to give an additional P5. Of course, I sulked a bit, but in the end I learned to accept it. I figured that I deserved it since I was studying in a private school while my siblings were in public schools.

Now in college, the same depressing experience continues (although, my allowance had certainly improved from the usual P10). The money's always not enough. I'm known to be the most tight-fisted, penny-pinching child in my already frugal family. Given all these, I could not help but wonder most of the time where I'm actually spending my money.

Living away from home, I find my present predicament a burden and a depressing reality I have to contend with every day. There are no close relatives I can easily turn to for help. There are no parents to take on the burden of worrying where to get the next meal on their shoulders. God, there isn't even anyone to share the hunger pangs with me.

For that matter, I certainly am now familiar with how it feels to feed one's hunger with a piece of bread, or much worse, to just sleep it off. I certainly know the feeling of eating only one meal a day, or scrimping on pancit canton and banana cue, like what I'm doing now. I know how it feels walking through the halls, lost and bothered, at the same time looking for some kind soul who'd take pity on me and lend me some money.

More than ever, I know how it feels calling home, asking for my allowance. Even until now, I still cringe whenever I talk to my mom on the phone, asking for money. And looking back at those times now, I don't know how I was able to survive. Oddly enough though, I do manage to get by most of the time and this, I owe to my friends, my dorm mates and the people who actually took pity on me. Stubborn, with lots of pride and a promise never to go into the practice of borrowing money from other people, I would resist offers of help from my friends and classmates unless it became a do-it-or-die call.

I had my "freak out" days, when the only thing I did during times when I didn't have money was to sulk and cry and blame my parents. Now, I'm quite proud to say that I've outgrown those days. After three years of the same penniless experience, I still do look lost and bothered. Occasionally, I still cry and mope. But most of the time, I have learned to laugh at it, even joke about it, and yes, wait patiently and just be plain resourceful (in an honest way, of course). Perhaps it comes with maturity, or perhaps, it simply is just a matter of getting used to it.

Money never comes easily to someone who was not born to it. Loans are hard to process, and salaries are sometimes delayed. I have now learned to curb my rant-and-rave tendencies and not to blame my parents for things like a delayed allowance.

Hearing fellow students complain about not having loads for their cell phones, I feel some degree of pride that I've managed to survive being "loadless" for two months (and be totally cut off from the texting world) or more times than I can count ever since I got a cell phone.

Of course, I have my own "wants." I can't resist buying a good book when I see one. I usually pig out on chocolates and ice cream and tons of junk food when depressed or after topping a really difficult exam. However, I have learned to save for them, rather than actually ask my parents to provide me the money. I have a piggybank where I put my daily "for wallowing and personal rewards" savings.

Thanks also to my parents' own brand of upbringing, I have learned to value every cent they gave me. We were raised knowing that we do not belong to the class of the high and mighty rich. Yes, we have enough for our basic needs, and perhaps a little for our own caprices, but nothing more beyond that. As a child, I already knew that if I wanted some personal petty caprice met, I had to earn my keep in the household, be an excellent student and become disgustingly rich first. You make do with what you have and what was given to you.

It is probably the way I was brought up that showed me the difference between a poor kid raised thinking he was rich, and a rich kid raised believing that he was poor. The first would more likely become poorer and stay a burden in the future due to the bad traits he grew up with. On the other hand, the second would have learned well the harsh lessons of poverty and could turn out better motivated all-around and become a source of pride to the family. The lack of money is indeed a perfect motivation for a child to excel.

With the mounting poverty of so many families and the extravagant, luxurious lifestyle of some of us, I can't help but think how trivial we all have become. The rich whine over not having the latest cell phone model, or the latest designer shoes. They spend their nights on gimmicks, and parties and socializing, while the poor try to find sleep in some hovel of a house, readying for another day of work. And while it's so easy for the wealthy to take out their wallets and pay for their drinks in a bar, or some fancy rock concert, it's ironic that they actually find it hard to give a few coins to a girl selling sampaguita in the streets.

How trivial it is also for kids to waste away their parents' hard-earned money despite knowing that they're not rich enough to afford any caprices and whims. I know of several who are the only hope of their struggling families in the provinces. But they're even more capricious, less motivated and lazier than they have the right to be.

The entire vicious cycle of poverty begins with us. We can no longer afford to be trivial. Every cent, every peso counts. So before splurging on a really nice, sexy designer dress, I'd first think about those who really need the money more for necessities.

Being penniless taught me this.

Clarisse Espiritu Albia, 20, is a senior BS Development Communication student at the University of the Philippines, Los Baños.

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The 'masa' vote

RANDY David made some important points in his Feb. 8 column. He argued that the *masa* vote is a recent phenomenon as expressed in their support of President Estrada. Prior to this, the *masa* were divided by local and hierarchic loyalties, supporting ward leaders or powerful patrons. According to David, this important transformation from local loyalties to a national and autonomous voice was the product of the mass media, in particular, television.

In its quest for a wider audience, television developed a national viewership by using Tagalog, and thereby creating a shared ideological perspective. Other factors, such as the massive movement from the countryside to the cities (including overseas Filipino workers), with their differentiated residents, must have added to this increasing shift from the local to the national.

The same may be said of cinema, whose leading stars quickly transformed themselves into household names, replacing earlier idols closer to home. It was only a matter of time before such stars converted their popularity into votes. Sen. Rogelio de la Rosa in the '50s may have been the first to do so. Ferdinand and Imelda Marcos tried to cultivate a similar adulation from Filipinos during their period in power using mythology, history and monuments. They failed because reality somehow got in the way of fantasy.

If the *masa* constitute 75 percent of the voting population as David claims, democracy produces a supreme irony because those with the least stake in the social order decide who its leaders will be. This may explain why this choice seems so irrational to those with larger stakes in maintaining the status quo. Older democracies took the precaution of ensuring that their poorer members had a modicum of education as well as an investment in preserving the social order. Moreover, in those early days, the mass media did not have as orientating an effect on daily life as it does now. As David says, everyone now, including the *masa*, has an opinion on everything.

The arguments above have a persuasive appeal but on closer inspection reveal serious flaws. I cannot enumerate them here for lack of space but can only raise some queries. Why have these significant social changes not produced other political shifts such as the rise of women, youth or religious (except Iglesia ni Cristo) voting blocks? While some actors have managed the change from stage to politics, others have failed (e.g. Nora Aunor). The present political spectrum looks remarkably like the days of the *trapos* and political kingpins. While some things have undoubtedly changed, others have remained stubbornly the same. We cannot blame the *masa* for both the change and the continuity.

—RAUL PERTIERRA,
Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Ateneo de Manila University, Katipunan Avenue, Quezon City

Habitat for Humanity's founder

THANK you for your story last Feb. 1, on the student engineers from De La Salle University who plan to drill a deep well for a Habitat for Humanity community in Rodriguez, Rizal. I hope that your story will move those with the means to provide financial support for the project, as well as to inspire other young people to use their newly found skills and knowledge for those who need them most.

I wish to clarify, though, an important point: Habitat for Humanity was not founded by former US President Jimmy Carter. Carter is merely a volunteer, albeit its most famous one. The founder of this organization is Millard Fuller.

Fuller used to be a businessman and a self-made millionaire from Alabama who, at the age of 29, decided to give up his fortune and the pursuit of wealth to pay more attention to his family and to serve God. Searching for a new focus in their lives, he and his wife Linda joined Koinonia Farms, a Christian community in Americus, Georgia where people sought practical applications of their faith. Along with Koinonia's founder, a farmer and Bible scholar named Clarence Jordan, Fuller established several partnership ministries, including one for housing.

In 1973, Fuller and his family moved to Africa to apply their model of building decent, durable and affordable shelter for the poor in a developing country. Encouraged by its success in Zaire, the Fullers returned to Americus where, in 1976, he and his associates established a separate organization, Habitat for Humanity International. The rest, as they say, is history.

In fact, Fuller will be here in the Philippines from March 13 to 15 as part of a swing through several Asian countries to visit the various Habitat organizations in this part of the world. He will also formally launch this year's Youth Build, which will open at a Habitat site in San Pedro, Laguna.

—CHET MARTINEZ,
communications director,
Habitat for Humanity Philippines Foundation Inc.,
Unit 2503, Jollibee Plaza Bldg.,
Emerald Avenue,
Ortigas Center, Pasig City

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LETTERS — PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

No part in newspaper ad

THIS is in response to the letter signed by former tourism secretary and now chair of Freedom to Fly Coalition, Narzalina Lim, last Feb. 12. Lim said Gov. Erico Aumentado of Bohol was among the signatories of the full-page advertisement headlined in support of Bertie Lim.

Please be informed that Aumentado has denied signing the ad or authorizing the use of his name therein.

Lim also stated that Prof. Victor Limlingan's administrative case before the Ombudsman, filed by Philippine Airlines, was dropped.

For your information, while an Ombudsman resolution dated April 30, 1998 recommending dismissal of the administrative proceedings against Limlingan was indeed issued, this was subsequently overturned in a memorandum dated June 25, 1998 approved by then Ombudsman Aniano Desierto.

The memorandum in fact recommended the dismissal of Limlingan from government service for grave misconduct and the cancellation of eligibility, forfeiture of benefits and disqualification for reemployment in the government.

What Lim deliberately omitted in her letter was that on Oct. 6, 1997, the Ombudsman found sufficient prima facie evidence to indict Limlingan for violation of the Anti-Graft Law in connection with his unauthorized granting of seat entitlements to Singaporean carriers.

Apparently to avoid administrative sanctions as a result of the Ombudsman's decision which found him criminally liable and jump the gun on the Ombudsman, Limlingan submitted his resignation to the President as board member of the Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB). But just the same, the Ombudsman found him administratively liable.

—ROBERT LIM JOSEPH JR.,
president, Save Our Skies (SOS),
Coltrans Compound,
2253 Aurora Blvd., Pasay City

A crisis a la Argentina unlikely to happen in Philippines

YOUR news account titled "Peso sinks to P56.20 to $1 (international bank warns of crisis a la Argentina)" highlighted the warnings of Standard Chartered Bank but missed out the more important portions of the analysis which noted "there is little to suggest a crisis in the near term."

First, the report recognizes that the Philippine economy is broadly stable compared to that of Argentina before the crisis. This is a very critical difference because the Philippines has not experienced deep recession even at the height of the financial storm in 1997 and through the next six years thereafter. We do not have the makings of a country in economic crisis; to reaffirm this point, the report even went to the extent of citing an anecdotal experience of brisk sales of a large food chain in the Philippines.

Second, while the report argues that "on a first cut, the Philippines' external situation looks far worse than that of Argentina pre-crisis... this position is mitigated by some positive factors." The openness of the Philippine economy is cited first. This has allowed more foreign currency to come in without fear of currency control. There is less mismatch on an economy-wide basis.

The long maturities of external debt are also very important to consider. There is less pressure on debt servicing, there is less pressure on the currency.

Substantial OFW remittances are also critical in the equation, bringing in between $6 and $7 billion a year. This amount alone is about twice the annual debt payments of the country.

Finally, the report also cited the country's tight pricing compared to that of pre-crisis Argentina. Therefore, financing the public deficit from external sources should not be very difficult if it is necessary to do so.

In closing, allow me to clarify the quotation from the report arguing that the poor fiscal position might raise the issue of the government's eligibility to finance the budget deficit. "This in turn leads to speculation that the government will be forced to print more money and thus the Philippine peso depreciates sharply."

The report actually contradicts itself because earlier it recognized that revenue collection and tax administration have improved. In fact, the national government was able to achieve its deficit target with some comfortable margin for the whole year of 2003.

Most important, it is not the government but the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas that prints money for the whole economy. We will continue to print money for the regular requirements of the growing economy but we take strong exception to the suggestion that we will do this to finance the budget deficit.

—EVELYN R. SANTOS,
officer in charge,
Department of Economic Research, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, A. Mabini cor. P. Ocampo Streets, Malate, Manila,

Best antidote to bird flu

THE BIRD flu now spreading across Asia is bringing death to millions of chickens and threatening the health of people. It is devastating but sickeningly predictable. The influenza that sweeps our globe every year almost always originate in chickens, ducks and pigs living in great numbers close to people in southern China. Pigs catch a flu virus from birds then transmit a mutated form to people.

The best solution to the bird flu problem is to stop using animals for food. A vegetarian diet would help to prevent other meat-related diseases, including heart disease, diabetes and certain cancers (see GoVeg.com for more information). At the very least, we must stop crowding animals into the filthy disease reservoirs known as factory farms.

—JASON BAKER,
Asia representative,
People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, 5 Glenealy, Central, Hong Kong

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The same may be said of cinema, whose leading stars quickly transformed themselves into household names, replacing earlier idols closer to home. It was only a matter of time before such stars converted their popularity into votes. Sen. Rogelio de la Rosa in the '50s may have been the first to do so. Ferdinand and Imelda Marcos tried to cultivate a similar adulation from Filipinos during their period in power using mythology, history and monuments. They failed because reality somehow got in the way of fantasy.

If the *masa* constitute 75 percent of the voting population as David claims, democracy produces a supreme irony because those with the least stake in the social order decide who its leaders will be. This may explain why this choice seems so irrational to those with larger stakes in maintaining the status quo. Older democracies took the precaution of ensuring that their poorer members had a modicum of education as well as an investment in preserving the social order. Moreover, in those early days, the mass media did not have as orientating an effect on daily life as it does now. As David says, everyone now, including the *masa*, has an opinion on everything.

The arguments above have a persuasive appeal but on closer inspection reveal serious flaws. I cannot enumerate them here for lack of space but can only raise some queries. Why have these significant social changes not produced other political shifts such as the rise of women, youth or religious (except Iglesia ni Cristo) voting blocks? While some actors have managed the change from stage to politics, others have failed (e.g. Nora Aunor). The present political spectrum looks remarkably like the days of the *trapos* and political kingpins. While some things have undoubtedly changed, others have remained stubbornly the same. We cannot blame the *masa* for both the change and the continuity.

—RAUL PERTIERRA,
Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Ateneo de Manila University, Katipunan Avenue, Quezon City

Habitat for Humanity's founder

'THANK you for your story last Feb. 1, on the student engineers from De La Salle University who plan to drill a deep well for a Habitat for Humanity community in Rodriguez, Rizal. I hope that your story will move those with the means to provide financial support for the project, as well as to inspire other young people to use their newly found skills and knowledge for those who need them most.

I wish to clarify, though, an important point: Habitat for Humanity was not founded by former US President Jimmy Carter. Carter is merely a volunteer, albeit its most famous one. The founder of this organization is Millard Fuller.

Fuller used to be a businessman and a self-made millionaire from Alabama who, at the age of 29, decided to give up his fortune and the pursuit of wealth to pay more attention to his family and to serve God. Searching for a new focus in their lives, he and his wife Linda joined Koinonia Farms, a Christian community in Americus, Georgia where people sought practical applications of their faith. Along with Koinonia's founder, a farmer and Bible scholar named Clarence Jordan, Fuller established several partnership ministries, including one for housing.

In 1973, Fuller and his family moved to Africa to apply their model of building decent, durable and affordable shelter for the poor in a developing country. Encouraged by its success in Zaire, the Fullers returned to Americus where, in 1976, he and his associates established a separate organization, Habitat for Humanity International. The rest, as they say, is history.

In fact, Fuller will be here in the Philippines from March 13 to 15 as part of a swing through several Asian countries to visit the various Habitat organizations in this part of the world. He will also formally launch this year's Youth Build, which will open at a Habitat site in San Pedro, Laguna.

—CHET MARTINEZ,
communications director, Habitat for Humanity Philippines Foundation Inc., Unit 2503, Jollibee Plaza Bldg., Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City

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LETTERS

No part in newspaper ad

THIS is in response to the letter signed by former tourism secretary and now chair of Freedom to Fly Coalition, Narzalina Lim, last Feb. 12. Lim said Gov. Erico Aumentado of Bohol was among the signatories of the full-page advertisement headlined in support of Bertie Lim.

Please be informed that Aumentado has denied signing the ad or authorizing the use of his name therein.

Lim also stated that Prof. Victor Limlingan's administrative case before the Ombudsman, filed by Philippine Airlines, was dropped.

For your information, while an Ombudsman resolution dated April 30, 1998 recommending dismissal of the administrative proceedings against Limlingan was indeed issued, this was subsequently overturned in a memorandum dated June 25, 1998 approved by then Ombudsman Aniano Desierto.

The memorandum in fact recommended the dismissal of Limlingan from government service for grave misconduct and the cancellation of eligibility, forfeiture of benefits and disqualification for reemployment in the government.

What Lim deliberately omitted in her letter was that on Oct. 6, 1997, the Ombudsman found sufficient prima facie evidence to indict Limlingan for violation of the Anti-Graft Law in connection with his unauthorized granting of seat entitlements to Singaporean carriers.

Apparently to avoid administrative sanctions as a result of the Ombudsman's decision which found him criminally liable and jump the gun on the Ombudsman, Limlingan submitted his resignation to the President as board member of the Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB). But just the same, the Ombudsman found him administratively liable.

—ROBERT LIM JOSEPH JR., president, Save Our Skies (SOS), Coltrans Compound, 2253 Aurora Blvd., Pasay City

A crisis a la Argentina unlikely to happen in Philippines

YOUR news account titled "Peso sinks to P56.20 to $1 (international bank warns of crisis a la Argentina)" highlighted the warnings of Standard Chartered Bank but missed out the more important portions of the analysis which noted "there is little to suggest a crisis in the near term."

First, the report recognizes that the Philippine economy is broadly stable compared to that of Argentina before the crisis. This is a very critical difference because the Philippines has not experienced deep recession even at the height of the financial storm in 1997 and through the next six years thereafter. We do not have the makings of a country in economic crisis; to reaffirm this point, the report even went to the extent of citing an anecdotal experience of brisk sales of a large food chain in the Philippines.

Second, while the report argues that "on a first cut, the Philippines' external situation looks far worse than that of Argentina pre-crisis... this position is mitigated by some positive factors." The openness of the Philippine economy is cited first. This has allowed more foreign currency to come in without fear of currency control. There is less mismatch on an economy-wide basis.

The long maturities of external debt are also very important to consider. There is less pressure on debt servicing, there is less pressure on the currency.

Substantial OFW remittances are also critical in the equation, bringing in between $6 and $7 billion a year. This amount alone is about twice the annual debt payments of the country.

Finally, the report also cited the country's tight pricing compared to that of pre-crisis Argentina. Therefore, financing the public deficit from external sources should not be very difficult if it is necessary to do so.

In closing, allow me to clarify the quotation from the report arguing that the poor fiscal position might raise the issue of the government's eligibility to finance the budget deficit. "This in turn leads to speculation that the government will be forced to print more money and thus the Philippine peso depreciates sharply."

The report actually contradicts itself because earlier it recognized that revenue collection and tax administration have improved. In fact, the national government was able to achieve its deficit target with some comfortable margin for the whole year of 2003.

Most important, it is not the government but the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas that prints money for the whole economy. We will continue to print money for the regular requirements of the growing economy but we take strong exception to the suggestion that we will do this to finance the budget deficit.

—EVELYN R. SANTOS, officer in charge, Department of Economic Research, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, A. Mabini cor. P. Ocampo Streets, Malate, Manila,

Best antidote to bird flu

THE BIRD flu now spreading across Asia is bringing death to millions of chickens and threatening the health of people. It is devastating but sickeningly predictable. The influenza that sweeps our globe every year almost always originate in chickens, ducks and pigs living in great numbers close to people in southern China. Pigs catch a flu virus from birds then transmit a mutated form to people.

The best solution to the bird flu problem is to stop using animals for food. A vegetarian diet would help to prevent other meat-related diseases, including heart disease, diabetes and certain cancers (see GoVeg.com for more information). At the very least, we must stop crowding animals into the filthy disease reservoirs known as factory farms.

—JASON BAKER, Asia representative, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, 5 Glenealy, Central, Hong Kong

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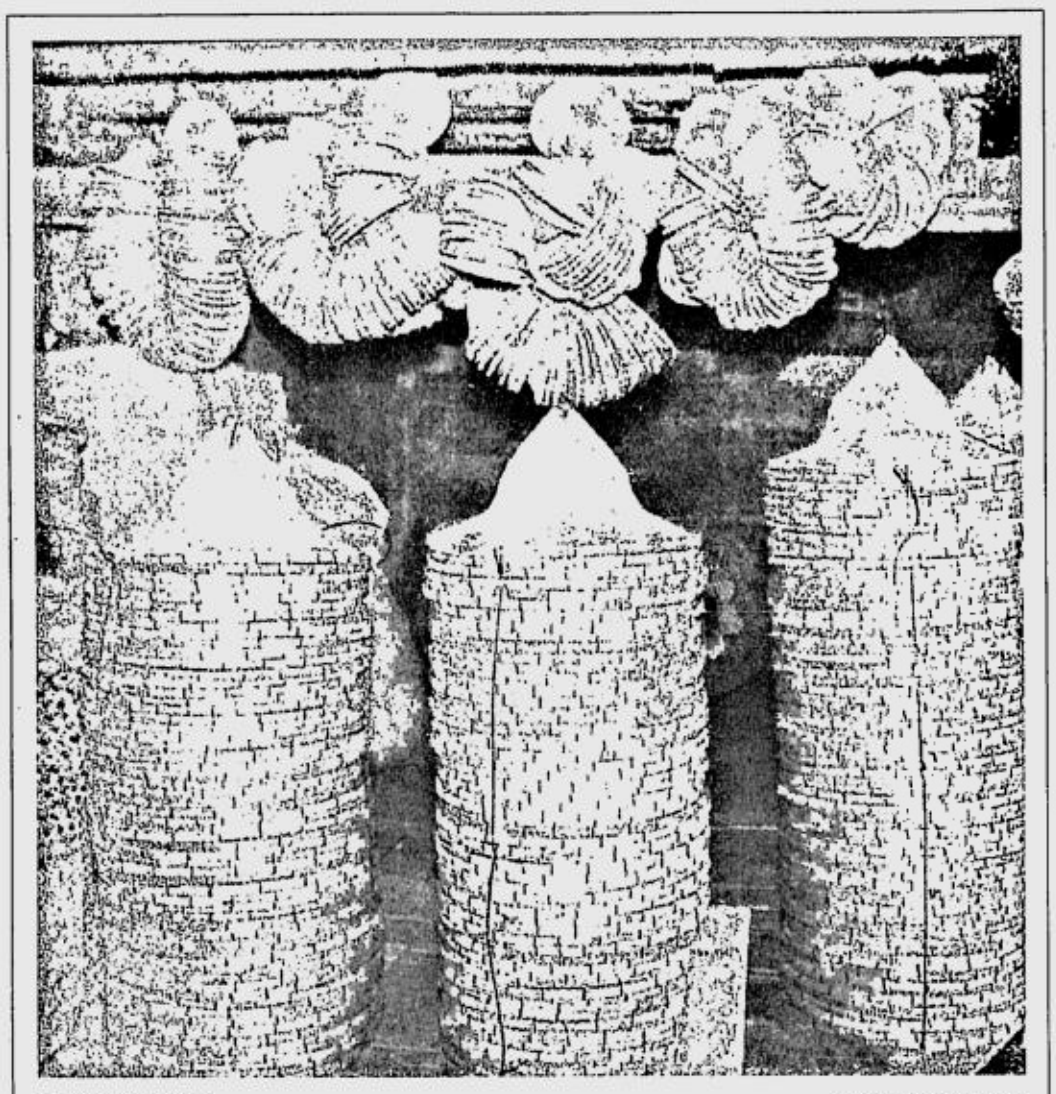
Anti-reb drive slows measles mission



HEAD START AI NOE PALER/CONTRIBUTOR
A pile of straw hats awaits delivery to buyers in a warehouse in Consolacion, Cebu. The hats are handmade and are considered one of the products which the province is proud of.

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Military operations in some areas of the country have been slowing down the government's nationwide anti-measles drive dubbed as Ligtas Tigd... Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit admitted yesterday.

But Dayrit said they consider the military operations in some areas, complicated by the presence of rebel or bandit groups, as a minor problem.

He said generally, the immunization drive is becoming successful because parents are now more open-minded about the need for vaccination.

Consuelo Aranas, a representative of the United Nations Children Fund (Unicef), said the military operations in Samar and some parts of Mindanao have in some ways hampered the vaccination drive.

"The military does not allow our vaccinators to get inside one of the barangays there," Aranas said of their Samar experience where the military has been hunting down communist rebels.

She said to remedy the situation they convinced village officials in conflict areas to help parents bring their children to nearby barangays.

Dr. Brenda Lopez, health director for Western Mindanao, said for areas in the region and for the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao that were identified as bandit and rebel lairs, they also adopted a similar strategy.

"Instead of the door-to-door approach where vaccinators directly go to the recipients, we tap community leaders and ask them to bring the mothers and their children in a particular area on a certain period and we do the immunization there," Lopez said.

Dayrit said amid some problems, the health department was optimistic it could achieve its goal of 100-percent vaccination by the end of the month.

He said their optimism was based on the increasing acceptance among parents that vaccination is good for their children.

Aranas meanwhile said that aside from military operations, natural disasters have also hampered the delivery of the service.

She cited the case of Surigao, which has recently been affected by flood because of intermittent rains.

Dayrit said the campaign has already reached about 50 percent of the 18-million children targeted for vaccination.

In the cities of Isabela, Zamboanga, Pagadian, Dapitan and Dipolog, Dayrit said health workers were able to reach 70 percent of the target.

In Zamboanga City alone, Dayrit said at least 101,000 children or 68 percent of the targeted 148,000 have already been immunized. *Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

2,000 rally in Cebu to support FPJ

AT LEAST 2,000 supporters of presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr. staged a rally in downtown Cebu City Thursday to ask the Supreme Court to render a fair judgment on the actor's disqualification case.

Members of the Pro-FPJ, Fernando Poe Jr. for President Movement and Panday 2004 FPJ for President converged at the Plaza Independencia at about 10 a.m.

They then marched to Colon Street while chanting "Tunay na Pilipino si FPJ" along the way.

Former Cebu City Mayor Alvin Garcia, who was in the rally, said some 2,000 to 3,000 people were at the rally. Garcia, who is running for mayor under the local opposition party Kusug, said he joined the rally as a lawyer and not as a supporter of Poe because he believed that the actor was a natural-born Filipino.

Leandro Boy Patalinghug, a drama actor who is vice president for Central Visayas of the Ang Panday 2004 FPJ for President, estimated the crowd to be between 4,000 and 5,000.

He said they could have mustered a bigger crowd if they had enough time to prepare.

It was noted, however, that those who joined the rally was given a pack of juice and bread as snacks. Nobody, however, would say where these came from or who financed these. *Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau*

ROUNDUP

Driver, helper killed

CAMP GEN. ALEJO SANTOS, Bulacan—A driver of a gasoline tanker and his helper were found dead in San Rafael town on Friday. Senior Insp. Rizalito Andaya, San Rafael police chief, identified the victims as Rodolfo Gumatay and Jack Arwatan, both of Gattaran, Cagayan. They died of bullet wounds in the heads. Andaya said the victims' tanker, which was loaded with 8,000 liters of diesel and 8,000 liters of gasoline worth about P500,000, left the Caltex depot in Pandacan, Manila, at 11:30 p.m. Thursday and was shortly flagged down by gunmen somewhere in Metro Manila. The victims were on their way to Tuguegarao City to deliver the tanker's contents. Police said the tanker was found abandoned in Barangay Pungo, Calumpit town, about 15 km from where the victims' bodies were found at 6 a.m. Friday. The tanker's contents were intact.
Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Pol coordinator slain

ILAGAN, Isabela—A political coordinator of a congressional candidate in the province was shot and killed by two men in Ramon town on Feb. 3, police said. Senior Supt. Nelson Nario, Isabela police director, identified the victim as Francisco Cabbat, 44, village chief of Bugallon Norte in Ramon. Nario said Cabbat was a political coordinator of Aksiyon Makamasa and Partido ng Demokratikong Pilipino-Laban under Santiago City Councilor Anthony Miranda, a congressional candidate in the province's fourth district. Cabbat was reportedly talking to another person in front of an elementary school in the village when the suspects, who were aboard a motorcycle, shot him in the back. Reports said Cabbat was the third political coordinator of Miranda who was killed since last year. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Power barge pulled out

CALAPAN CITY—A power barge in Puerto Galera will be temporarily pulled out by the National Power Corp. this April. The barge, a major source of power in Oriental Mindoro, will be brought to Panay Island because of a power crisis there. In its place, Napocor will rent 25 megawatt (MW) land-based units. Oriental Mindoro has a power demand of 24 MW. Engineer Roberto Davalos, Napocor Mindoro-Romblon area manager, said the land-based scheme is more reliable because the units can operate continuously. The Oriental Mindoro Electric Cooperative will lend Napocor the land to put up the generator sets.
Madonna T. Virola, PDI Southern Luzon

Anti-drug awards

CALAPAN CITY—For their active campaign against illegal drugs in Oriental Mindoro, four persons and entities were honored during the 13th anniversary of the Philippine National Police in Camp Vicente Lim, in Calamba, Laguna, on Feb. 4. Honored were Chief Insp. Noraida L. Rocco of the Oriental Mindoro Provincial Police Office; SPO3 Jose Z. Matchimura Jr., chief of police of San Teodoro town, best senior police noncommissioned officer; the 409th PMG led by Supt. Rodrigo A. Foja, best Mimaropa provincial mobile group, and Kill Droga, a non-government organization, special awardee. *Madonna T. Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Demand for marijuana falling, says DILG head

BAGUIO CITY—Local Government Secretary Jose Lina Jr. on Thursday said international demand for marijuana has declined substantially.

Lina, in a press conference here on Thursday, said the Chinese government confirmed the scaling down of the marijuana market, following a recent state agreement to share law enforcement information and resources in the fight against Chinese drug syndicates.

The National Peace and Order Council labels the Cordillera as the dominant supplier of marijuana, generating 70 percent of the weed distributed abroad.

Lina said statistical figures about the reduced marijuana demand are still being evaluated. But he said marijuana continues to tail shabu in domestic demand.

This lackluster demand could be the reason marijuana farmers have slowly shifted their produce to conventional crops, local officials said.

Lina said he is interested in a Benguet community initiative, led by Kapangan Mayor Rogelio Leon, to convert the underground marijuana plantations of the town into cutflower beds and greenhouses.

Lina promised to initiate an inter-agency program that would explore the Kapangan experiment and its applicability to other marijuana-producing towns.

Leon steered a local proposal in 2001 that introduced cutflower alternatives to marijuana. He said the Benguet cutflower industry has employed more farms, and generated substantial exports, compared to the average vegetable farms.

But some farmers claimed that they were paid wholesale prices by marijuana financiers, which amount to only 0.01 percent of the actual street value of marijuana. One farmer claimed to receive only P100 for every brick of marijuana they process.

Lina said Asian governments are more concerned about Chinese syndicates that have tried to relocate in the country.

He said the government had been arresting Chinese suspects, because Chinese syndicates tend to send their own chemists to shabu laboratories in the Philippines. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

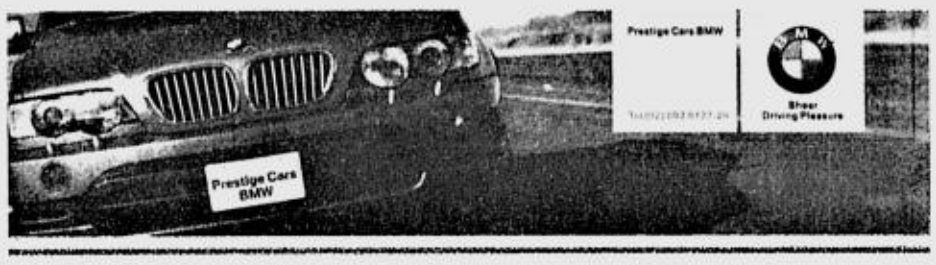
Campaign good news for hotels

DAVAO CITY—The political season has provided the hotel industry here with a new market, albeit temporarily.

But hotels are really making more money these days as politicians normally bring with them 20 to 30 people during their sorties in provinces near the city.

Arturo Boncato, sales and marketing manager of Marco Polo Hotel, said a single party composed of the candidate and his entourage already makes up 10-20 percent of a hotel's occupancy.

Boncato said the hotel industry was not bound to hike prices. *Joel B. Escovilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



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The legend of Punta de Bulalacao

By Rolando O. Borrinaga
Tacloban City

ONE of my passions is trying to establish the historical basis of local myths, legends and fo'' ore of the Leyte-Samar region. I have succeeded in unn..sking the historical facts behind a few of them, but many others still need to be decoded one at a time.

Folklore of northeastern Biliran mentioned a "Punta de Bulalacao, Isla de Panamao" (Bulalacao Point, Panamao Island). This place is a component of an entire legend-complex that includes a fairy named Maria Benita, Spanish galleons, cargoes of cacao, and even a fabled "city" on top of Mt. Panamao.

Most of the components are strangely Spanish in label and identification, suggesting that the entire legend evolved during the Spanish era.

Of course, Isla de Panamao is the ancient name of Biliran Island, which was the site of the first large-scale Spanish shipyard in the Philippines at around 1600. And cacao in this colony was first planted by the Jesuits in Carigara, Leyte, according to the 19th-century French author J. Mallat. The Carigara parish originally included Isla de Panamao.

The "city" on the mountaintop probably evolved in the folk mind from the volcanic activity of the eruptive Mt. Panamao, whose peak glowed during dark nights, as described by Jesuit Fr. Francisco Alcina in 1668. The volcano presumably erupted a year later.

Maria Benita (Benighted Maria), the fairy, is associated with the religious controversy involving the towns of Almeria and Kawayan during the early American period at the turn of the 20th century, which saw the diminution of the belligerent town of Almeria into a barrio of Kawayan, a former barrio that was elevated into a town by American officials.

Confused cartographer

The search then left me with finding the location of Punta de Bulalacao (Bulalacao Point).

Natives of Kawayan claim that this geographical point is probably in the vicinity of Barangay Bulalacao, a few kilometers east of the town proper. The place was named after a bird called "*bulalacao*" in Waray-waray and "*buwakaw*" in Cebuano, which allegedly glows or sparkles at night.

I do not know the bird's English name, and I have not yet seen one. But it might have also given rise to the "St. Elmo's Fire" (*santelmo*) phenomenon in the folk mind.

Anyway, Barangay Bulalacao does not have a prominent headland that merits to be called a point. Thus, Punta de Bulalacao must be somewhere else.

The answer dawned on me a few weeks ago, while I was scanning the Leyte-Samar sections of Spanish-era Philippine maps and trying to firm up additional proofs for my theory on the name of Leyte in an earlier column on the narrow channel under Biliran Bridge.

ENHANCED Spanish-era Philippine map shows the central portion of the island of Panamao (now Biliran) and the supposed Punta de Bululaqui or Punta de Bulacacao.

The first detailed map of the Philippines was drawn up by Jesuit Fr. Pedro Murillo Velarde in 1744. It was published in Manila in 1749 as part of his "Historia de la Provincia de Filipinas de la Compania de Jesus."

The cartographer was apparently confused about where Panamao Island was closest to Leyte. He bent the island and made it appear almost connected to the mainland in two areas—at the center and west of northern Leyte, respectively. He was wrong.

Earlier, in 1668, Father Alcina, who probably had not traveled through the Biliran Strait on his way to Samar where he served many years as a missionary, was himself confused about the location of Pogot Point (Beheading Point). His narrative placed this on the northwestern point of Leyte, along the western seaboard of the island opposite Cebu.

In Alcina's time, the easternmost part of Cebu across northern Leyte was known to the Spaniards as "Bululaqui." But the priest, who understood the local language, knew better. He said the word was a corruption of the native phase "*buli-lacu*" (i.e., *buli daku*), which is obscene in the Bisayan language. In English, it is "penis [is] big."

In the 1744 map, the northernmost point of Cebu, placed on almost the same latitude directly west of Panamao, was labeled Punta de Bululaqui. Its nearest village, on the vicinity of the present Daanbantayan, was known as Candaya. This village was probably the Cebu extension of the Kan-Daya (of the Big Boat) kingdom in Samar.

A joke?

There might have been an intended joke that escaped the Spaniards. The man who was famous for his big boats was also famous for a huge physical endowment.

After 1749, Spanish traders who traveled on their cargo boats probably brought along with them a copy of Fr. Murillo Velarde's map. While in Isla de Panamao to take in cargoes of cacao, they would presumably ask from the locals about Punta de Bululaqui, which was expected to be visible west of the island.

Unfortunately, then and now, the northern part of Cebu could not be seen from Biliran Island at sea level. And the natives, in trying to figure out the strange word, might have heard "*bulalacao*" and pointed to the habitat of the "sparkler" birds north—not west—of the island.

And there started a legend. In due time, the language confusion created in the folk mind a mirage known as Punta de Bulalacao, which may not be found in Isla de Panamao.

Iloilo coffee shop percolates with political ideas

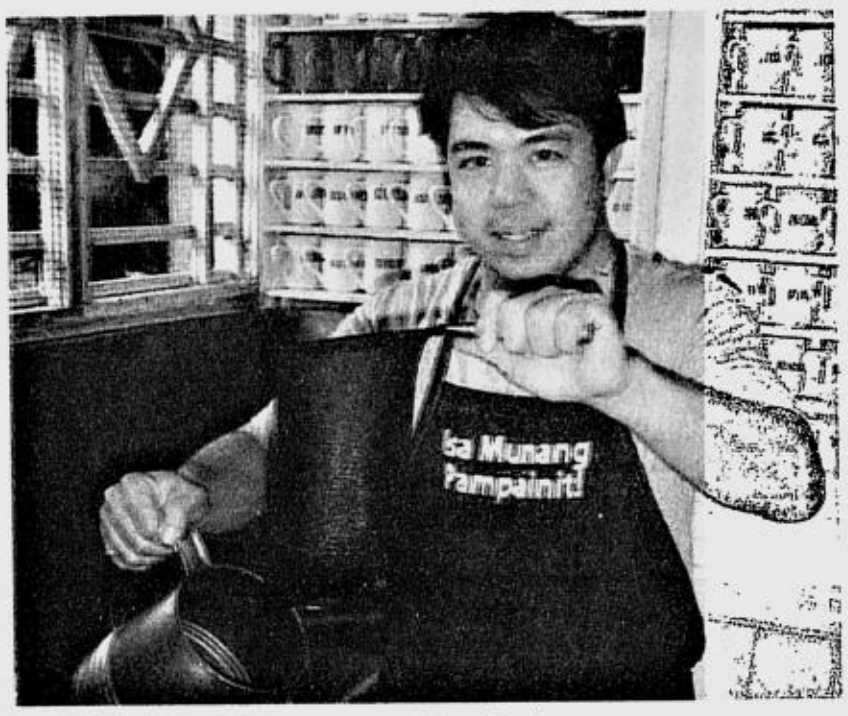
By Ma. Diosa Labiste
Iloilo City

TUCKED between dry good stalls and fruit stalls in Lapaz Market in Iloilo City is the Kapihan ni Madge, an unpretentious coffee house that has been the favorite of generations of politicians, entrepreneurs and pundits from all walks of life.

At 6 a.m., the place is alive with all sorts of characters and personalities that Iloilo has. Clutching coffee mugs, they take their seats to discuss every imaginable problem this city and this world have.

This election season, Madge is the popular hang out of political parties and their supporters. While politicians may lash out at each other in campaign speeches, they are expected to behave civilly at the Kapihan ni Madge. There are no written rules but they are expected to treat each coffee habitue with respect, regardless of political or religious make.

The Kapihan ni Madge is one of the most popular coffee houses in the city, and probably one of the enduring democratic institutions. It is one area where people get together freely and have open conversations, according to owner Peter de la Cruz, the third generation of De la Cruzes that run the place.



PETER de la Cruz, the manager-owner of the coffee house. DIOSA LABISTE/PDI VISAYAS BUREAU

Peter inherited the coffee house from his father Gerardo, who died last year. The late Gerardo, in turn, inherited it from his father Vicente, who named the place after his wife Magdalena.

Peter took over the family business a little more than a year ago. He left his job of two years at a mall and learned the ropes of running a coffee shop, among them making sure that the Madge coffee, a brew from locally grown coffee beans, tastes like the way it has always been served for the last 45 years.

Center of sociability

The Kapihan has considered La Paz Market its home. The market is more recognized for its historic culinary offering, La Paz Batchoy, and recently market *halo-halo*. There must be something in La Paz that makes it a home to some firsts in Iloilo history, and someday the Kapihan is sure to join that historic list.

Peter did little to change the atmosphere. He did some repainting and enclosed the area a little. He did not try to install air-conditioning as many upscale coffee shops had. He decided to retain its market feel as a center of sociability of the well-heeled and unshod, of haves and not-haves.

He did introduce something new—a bulletin board. There, politicians and advocates of whatever causes post their political platform and statements. Not to be outdone, market goers also post their own—some messages to pick up a kilo of fish or rice or some love notes from unrequited love.

The Kapihan ni Madge regulars include former city mayor Mansueto Malabor and many councilors, like Rita Sarabia, who is now running for mayor under the opposition ticket.

Sarabia sometimes starts her day at Madge, taking her regular coffee, which is a potent brew for the uninitiated, in between scoops of ripe papaya and bites of bread dunked in coffee.

"This is my other headquarters," Sarabia said. "This is where a fish vendor can debate with a politician; where movers and shakers of Ilonggo society go."

Senators and congressmen, whenever they are in town and wanted to touch base with the *masa*, visit the Kapihan ni Madge. The place hosts meetings of the La Paz Development Foundation, a civic group that is behind the beautification of the La Paz plaza. Madge is also the coffee house of choice for Masons.

Cheap, good coffee

Coffee is cheap at Madge. A cup costs P10 to P15.

Peter said they roasted their own coffee bought from farms in the northern towns of Iloilo. Regulars have their own coffee mugs with their names on it.

Servers, like Erlinda Samparni, 59, can memorize the preferences of the regular customers: black, sweetened, bitter, strong, plain, light or cloudy with milk.

One social thinker said coffee houses belonged to the new arena of public life, actually part of the public sphere where people organized themselves as bearers of opinion. The politicians were right in choosing coffee houses, like the Kapihan ni Madge, as their sounding boards and listening posts. They are safe places where face-to-face talk about news and their meaning occur, and truly percolators of political debates.

Kidnap-for-ransom plot uncovered

AT FIRST, residents thought it was just another one of the "Body Found" reports that had become so common in local media in the past months. The discovery of the bludgeoned body of school principal Regie Nojas Pacil in a grassy portion of the Villa Angela Subdivision in Bacolod City, however, led to the unearthing of far more sinister motives than the mere killing of a gang war or robbery victim.

As later pieced out by police, and with the confession of two of the suspects, Pacil, who was their friend, had not been the target but a Canadian visitor he was hosting. The group had planned to kidnap the foreigner for ransom, they disclosed, and Pacil was done in when he apparently would not cooperate.

And it was not only the Canadian, Ray Track, 67, who had been supporting some scholars at the Valladolid Elementary School, that the kidnappers were after. As the two suspects continued blabbing to local media, it was also found that the group had a target list of seven Bacolod businessmen.

The Canadian has since flown home, and the seven would-be victims are thanking their lucky stars that the plot had been uncovered.

* * *

AS PEACE talks between the government and the communist-led National Democratic Front were going on in Oslo, Norway, a group of about 50 New People's Army rebels raided an encampment of the 61st Infantry Battalion in Barangay Camindanaga, Himamaylan town, on Sunday.

Two suspected rebels were killed, while two soldiers and a civilian were slightly wounded. The rebels were able to snatch six firearms from the camp.

Recently, NPA rebels burned a bus of Vallacar Transit Inc., making it the twelfth of the Ceres Liner buses to be torched since 2002. The management of the bus firm has consistently refused to pay "revolutionary taxes" to the rebels who have threatened further atrocities.

The police director of Negros Occidental, who has identified some suspects in the burning, is frustrated because neither the driver nor the bus collector, who had witnessed the attack, would sign affidavits for fear of retaliation. So far, no charges have been filed against any of the perpetrators.

BACOLOD EXCHANGE

Ninfa R. Leonarda

* * *

AS FAR as the sugar industry is concerned, the weighty problem of plummeting prices that had terrorized both planters and labor groups in the past fortnight has somewhat eased when President Macapagal-Arroyo decided to put an end to their misery by ordering the National Food Authority to buy the local produce.

The crisis had so roiled the industry that even former governors Daniel Lacson and Lito Coscolluela joined incumbent Joseph Marañon in looking for solutions. The summit planned with the President in Malacañang no longer took place after the NFA order, but still, some look at this as a band-aid solution.

* * *

A MOMENTARY distraction at the height of the sugar price crisis was the arrival in Bacolod of movie actress Susan Roces, a former resident who is married to presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr.

Although Susan, or Jesusa Sonora as she was known during her school days in the city, cut the ribbon at the inauguration of her husband's local headquarters, she was careful not to say anything that could be interpreted as campaigning for him. Instead, she concentrated on reminiscences, and touched many when she recalled how she had looked back at the shoreline of Bacolod when she sailed to Manila to join the movies.

"I vowed to make my province mates proud of me," she said. That is why, she added, she never took on roles that were sexy or objectionable, although they were then becoming more popular and bigger earners.

* * *

THE PROVINCE has not yet stopped talking about the exit of Rep. Apolinario Lozada Jr. (fifth district) from the Lakas-CMD, of which he had always been identified as an organizer. It seems Lozada could no longer stand the heat in the kitchen where the fires of the candidacy of Ms Macapagal's brother-in-law, Ignacio "Jose Pidal" Arroyo are being stoked with family blessings.

What hurts most, Lozada says, is that the President had gone through the motions of declaring him the official candidate of Lakas, while Iggy was also declared official candidate of her own party, Kampi.

In Bacolod, the feud between Rep. Monico Puentevella and Mayor Luzviminda Valdez appears to be widening. What worsened it was the local Comelec's declaration that all their candidates for councilors were independent, since, together, they exceeded the limit of only 12.

That state of affairs doesn't worry Valdez, who openly said she does not look to the party for funding. Those who are worrying are the city residents and voters who want to know where her funds are coming from, since both she and her husband are only government officials with no known businesses or industries in the city. What they know is that he is an undersecretary of the Department of Transportation and Communications, and their son is her private secretary at the mayor's office.

Peso falls to all-time low; Palace in panic

From page A1

On the other hand, those earning dollars such as exporters were taking their time in converting them into pesos in the hope of getting a higher exchange rate later on.

Despite the peso's decline, the BSP still sees no need to intervene to prop up the currency, saying the recent drop would not yet have a major adverse impact on consumer prices.

Taking its cue from BSP's inaction, foreign exchange traders said the local currency could further weaken to new lows next week.

Find its own level

"I think what's really driving the peso down is not only political concerns but also the central bank's stance to let the peso find its own level," a commercial bank dealer said.

"The next projected resistance is at 56.50 since we are in unchartered territory," he said. "That's the next target level."

"The close at the week's low suggests that momentum (in favor of the dollar) remains strong," the trader said.

Another trader noted that the exchange rate would continue to be volatile while the Supreme Court is still deliberating on FPJ's citizenship.

The SC has been conducting hearings into a petition by Poe's opponents to disqualify him from the elections on the grounds that he is not a citizen.

Analysts have cited concerns that a verdict preventing the popular actor from running could spark violence.

Buenaventura said he hoped the SC would decide soon on the FPJ case so as to eliminate the uncertainties hounding the financial markets.

Weeks of confusion

Gleo Guerra, senior chief staff officer of the Supreme Court, said on television that the high court may decide on the case some time in the next two weeks.

The Supreme Court on Friday began studying files on the eligibility of Poe to run in the elections.

Officials said a delay in the ruling could lead to weeks of campaign confusion.

"That just creates a little bit of uncertainty and pressure," John McGowan, treasurer at HSBC Manila, said.

McGowan said the peso had always been edgy during political uncertainty as was seen in January 2001, during the ousting of Joseph Estrada from the presidency.

It then hit a low of 55.75 per dollar and rebounded sharply to near 45 on a single trading day, when the uncertainty eased.

The BSP chief had projected that the currency would gain ground in May or April as remittances and export earnings strengthen.

BSP Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said there was no evidence the recent depreciation was caused by speculation among banks.

Black market

The major indicators of speculative activity, Tetangco said, were when the differential between the Philippine Dealing System and the parallel or "black market" was wide or when there is likewise a big gap between local and offshore non-deliverable forward (NDF) markets.

Forwards refer to agreements to purchase currencies at a specific rate for settlement at a future maturity date for the purpose of hedging risks.

"This doesn't seem to be the case," he said.

Tetangco said the peso's weakening was also brought about by the strengthening of the dollar in the global market on expectations that the US Federal Reserve would intervene in favor of the greenback.

Song Seng Wun, analyst of Singapore-based GK Goh Securities, said "politics is the determining issue" for the peso's fall although worries over the balance of payments were worsening the situation.

If politics continues to predominate, it might be useless for the central bank to try to prop the peso up, Song said in a television interview here.

Save the bullets

"They might be wasting ammunition when sentiment is so against the peso so you might as well save the bullets for a more decisive move," he remarked.

"The central bank is caught in the middle ... If they know for certain the outcome, they could act but at this point the overall political landscape is rather fluid." He said the central bank may be concerned that raising interest rates could stifle economic growth but may have to step in if the peso continues to weaken.

Early this month, the central bank moved to protect the peso by hiking the liquidity reserves that banks are required to hold to 10 percent from 8 percent.

Spooked

The move was meant to mop up excess cash from the financial system and curb speculative pressure on the peso.

The peso has been weakening since late last year after Poe announced he was running for president.

Surveys have since shown him leading the presidential race, easily besting incumbent President Macapagal.

However Poe's strength has spooked the business community which is concerned over his lack of formal education and inexperience in public service. Poe has also declined to give details of his economic platform, fueling even more uncertainty. *With reports from Reuters, AFP*

7 gov't execs fail lifestyle check, face charges

From page A1

In a four-paragraph statement issued yesterday, the PAGC said it had slapped administrative charges against Press Undersecretary Carmen Suva, Interior Undersecretary Eduardo Soliman, Assistant Transportation Secretary Rene Maglanque, Public Works Director (Region 5) Orlando Roces, his assistant director Oscar Cristobal, and a couple, Social Work Regional Director Kunesa Sekak and Agriculture Regional Director Sumail Sekak, both assigned in Western Mindanao.

According to the PAGC, all seven presidential appointees violated the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act and filed incorrect Statements of Assets and Liabilities (SALs).

"They all failed to file true detailed and sworn statements of their assets, liabilities, net worth and financial and business interests, including those of their spouses and family members under 18 still living with them," the commission said.

PAGC Chair Dario Rama said in an interview that details of the complaints would not be released until after the seven officials had received the commission's orders for them to respond within 10 days.

The orders were issued yesterday.

Unfair

But Suva deplored the PAGC's act of releasing its statement to the media without first informing her and the others.

"This is unfair to me," she said in a phone interview, adding that she had been filing her SAL religiously in all her years in the government.

Suva has logged 42 years of service in Malacañang, spanning six administrations. She started off as an assistant at the Office of the President in 1962, during the administration of the late President Diosdado Macapagal, and became the press undersecretary of his daughter, President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"I file my SALs dutifully even if I don't have that much assets," Suva said.

In a separate phone interview, Roces said he had also declared all his assets in his SALs.

"I am not hiding anything from the government," Roces said. He said it was his detractors who had initiated the filing of the graft case against him.

The other officials were unavailable for comment.

'Motu proprio'

Told of Suva's background, Rama merely shrugged and said he did not know any of the seven officials.

He said complaints were sent to the PAGC by phone, fax, or mail. In other cases, the PAGC conducts an investigation "motu proprio," or on its own accord, he said.

"The PAGC does not look at the personalities involved in the cases. We look only at the evidence," Rama said, adding that the commission dismissed outright those cases not backed by evidence.

On Thursday, presidential candidate Bro. Eddie Villanueva said the PAGC had failed to curb corruption because it was working under the influence of the Palace.

"Everybody knows it is not independent," said the evangelist, who is standard-bearer of the Bangon Pilipinas Movement for National Renewal.

Rama yesterday expressed surprise at Villanueva's comment, but said he and the other members of the PAGC were content with the fact that "we did our job."

He said the commission had resolved 815 graft complaints as of Jan. 31, and recommended the dismissal, suspension, reprimand or disqualification from office of 70 officials.

The PAGC's findings and recommendations are sent to Malacañang for action.

Last month, it recommended that charges be filed against ex-Justice Secretary Hernando Perez, whom the Palace subsequently cleared.

But Rama said: "The PAGC has investigated 850 top officials of the executive branch, and the Palace upheld us in 815 cases. One reversal does not make the PAGC useless."

'Tita Ching'

Suva, who was in Zambales for Ms Macapagal's campaign, expressed shock at learning that she had supposedly failed the lifestyle check.

Her colleagues, members of her staff, as well as Malacañang reporters also expressed disbelief.

"I took care of my name in all the 42 years I have served the government," she said by phone.

Suva's staffers said some people from the PAGC had visited the Office of the Press Secretary's personnel office to ask for her SALs for 2000, 2001 and 2003, her appointment papers and her service record.

A letter from Rama was received at the personnel office on Feb. 18.

Suva is simply known as "Tita Ching" to veteran and new reporters who get to know her in the course of covering Malacañang.

Reporters say her office at the Kalayaan Hall is the most accessible in the Palace. *With a report from Juliet Labog-Javellana*

Missing Pinay's body found in suitcase in NJ house

From page A1

hiding out in Costa Rica, the New York Daily News reported.

Police decided to search the house on 212-214 Elwood Ave., which was once owned by Faiello, during an investigation into his whereabouts.

The police had evidence that Cruz went to Faiello for treatment on her tongue shortly before she disappeared, the New York Post reported.

Investigators interviewed Faiello regarding the Cruz disappearance but could find nothing to arouse suspicion, the Daily News said.

Around the time of Cruz's disappearance, police said Faiello had several bags of cement delivered to his home. Police believe the cement may have been used to build a raised platform in which to bury Cruz's remains.

Born and raised in the Philippines, Cruz moved to the United States in 1992 to work in Houston, Texas. She became a naturalized US citizen in 2002.

Cruz worked her way up from a low-level position at Citibank to a $180,000-year job at Barclay Capital's asset management group.

Fordham graduate

She was known to have been a bright student, graduating with honors from Fordham University in the Bronx where she received her MBA degree in finance in 1998.

She also graduated at the top of her class at Maryknoll College in Manila.

Her parents and two sisters still live in the Philippines. Her brother Jun and sister Teresita Cruz Lara flew to New York last year to help in the search for Cruz.

"I felt my world has begun to fall apart. We are devastated. We have to be strong," said Teresita in an interview after her arrival.

Relatives described Cruz, known as "Pipay" to close friends and relatives, as a sweet and loving woman.

She was also said to be very generous, sending money and gifts regularly to her family in the Philippines.

The last day

Police and relatives were able to piece together the story of what was probably the last day of Cruz's life and posted it in the "mariacruzmissing" website.

Cruz was seen hearing Mass at St. Malachy's Chruch on West 49th St. at 11 a.m. by a former dormitory mate on April 13, 2003, a Sunday.

At 1 p.m., she visited her office at 200 Park Ave. to pick up some files for a Monday team meeting.

A doorman at her West 50th St. building said he saw Cruz enter the lobby at about 9 p.m. on April 13.

On Monday, Cruz did not report for work and did not notify anyone at her office. Officemates called her phone throughout the day with no answer.

On April 16, a co-worker was sent to her apartment and found three days of Wall Street Journal newspaper copies at her doorstep. She still did not report for work.

That morning, her boss Hans Christensen called an emergency contact number, that of her aunt Rebecca de los Angeles, to inform her that Cruz had not reported for work.

Vanished

Together with two female cops from the New York Police Department, two of Cruz's nephews entered her apartment later that day. They did not find anything unusual. Neither did they find Cruz. They were told to file a missing persons report after one week.

Family and friends did the rounds of hospitals to look for Cruz and any Jane Doe. They found nothing. They blanketed the neighborhood with fliers of a smiling Cruz.

A check of her credit card record revealed that she had made a purchase at Loehmanns department store on April 13. There was no credit card or ATM activity since. Cruz also had not used her cell phone since she disappeared.

The Cruz family offered a reward of $25,000 for information.

Police issued a nationwide alert on Cruz.

"It's like she just vanished in the middle of New York," said Jun Cruz.

Justice chides Comelec for separate FPJ opinions

From page A1

During Thursday night's oral arguments, Senior Associate Justice Reynato Puno told Comelec legal division chief Alioden Dalaig that it was "strange" for the poll body to allow the filing of separate opinions, particularly by its new commissioners, Virgilio Garcillano and Manuel Barcelona Jr.

The two, Puno noted, did not even participate in the deliberations that led to the Comelec's earlier dismissal of Victorino Fornier's disqualification petition against the standard-bearer of the Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino.

"There are three commissioners who filed separate comments assailing the decision of the Comelec en banc. Is there now a new procedure at the Comelec?" the associate justice said.

In its 10-page comment, the Comelec urged the Supreme Court to dismiss, "without prejudice to the determination" of Poe's citizenship, the disqualification petitions "for lack of merit."

But according to Garcillano and Barcelona, as well as Commissioner Florentino Tuason, Poe should be disqualified from seeking the presidency because he was not a natural-born citizen at the time of his birth as an illegitimate child.

"This is a strange procedure followed by the Comelec. Why allow them who did not even take part [in deliberations] to file separate comments?" Puno said.

The appointment of Garcillano and Barcelona raised loud protests because of their alleged irregular election practices.

The first time

Under questioning by Puno, Dalaig admitted that this was "the first time" such a thing happened at the Comelec.

Puno also noted that in the past, it was the Solicitor General who took up the cudgels for the Comelec in cases before the high court.

But in this case, Solicitor General Alfredo Benipayo disagrees with the position of the Comelec's en banc. His position is closer to that of the three dissenting commissioners.

Garcillano said that based on the facts that Poe himself had admitted, particularly as stated on his parents' marriage contract and his certificate of birth, the actor was an illegitimate child.

"Being born an illegitimate child, following the doctrine in Morano vs Vivo, Poe cannot be considered a natural-born Filipino even if his father, Allan Fernando Poe, is shown to be a Filipino," Garcillano said, adding:

"As an illegitimate child, Poe's citizenship would have to follow the citizenship of his mother Bessie Kelly, who, Poe admits, was an American citizen."

Legal fiction

Garcillano said that while the 1935 Constitution did not expressly distinguish between legitimate and illegitimate children, the Supreme Court, in Morano vs Vivo, categorically ruled that a child born out of lawful marriage, "acquires the citizenship of the only legally known parent—the mother."

"It is, therefore, a rule long settled by the Supreme Court that only legitimate children follow the citizenship of the father and that illegitimate children are under the parental authority of the mother and follow her nationality," he said.

Garcillano said the subsequent marriage of Poe's parents could not have transferred the citizenship of Poe's father to the actor "through the legal fiction of legitimation."

He said that under Philippine civil laws, citizenship was not included in "the bundle of rights conferred by civil laws to children who have acquired the status of legitimate child through legal fiction."

"Thus, even if it is argued that the effects of legitimation should be made to retroact to Poe's birth, the retroactive effect does not include the acquisition of Philippine citizenship. Consequently, it still remains that at time of his birth, Poe was not a natural-born Filipino citizen," Garcillano said.

Concurrence

In his own comment to the high court, Barcelona concurred with Garcillano's position.

"Applying this ruling [Morano vs Vivo] to the facts admitted by respondent Poe can only lead to the conclusion that since he was born an illegitimate child, he did not acquire the Filipino citizenship of his father at birth. Hence, he is not a natural-born Filipino citizen," Barcelona said.

He added that Poe, being an illegitimate child, should follow his American mother's citizenship.

Barcelona also said the 1935 Constitution defined a natural-born Filipino as one who "became such at the moment of his birth" and "by reason of his birth, not by naturalization or by any subsequent declaration by the law for his citizenship."

No reason

The Comelec denied that it had acted without jurisdiction or committed grave abuse of discretion, saying it decided on the matter only because Poe was accused of material misrepresentation.

It also said it saw "no cogent reason" for Poe's outright disqualification based on his certificate of candidacy.

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Crash course on economics not enough—GMA

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday mocked movie star election rival Fernando Poe for taking a course in economics, saying candidates without the necessary experience would scare off foreign investors.

"This campaign is about clout and experience, not getting a crash course in economics governance," she said in a statement.

Asked to explain her comments, presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye later told reporters that "running this country is no joke. It is not enough to have a crash course on governance economics."

High school drop-out Poe, the front-runner in the May 10 vote, unveiled a 19-member team of economic advisers this week to counter criticism over his lack of experience in public office or business.

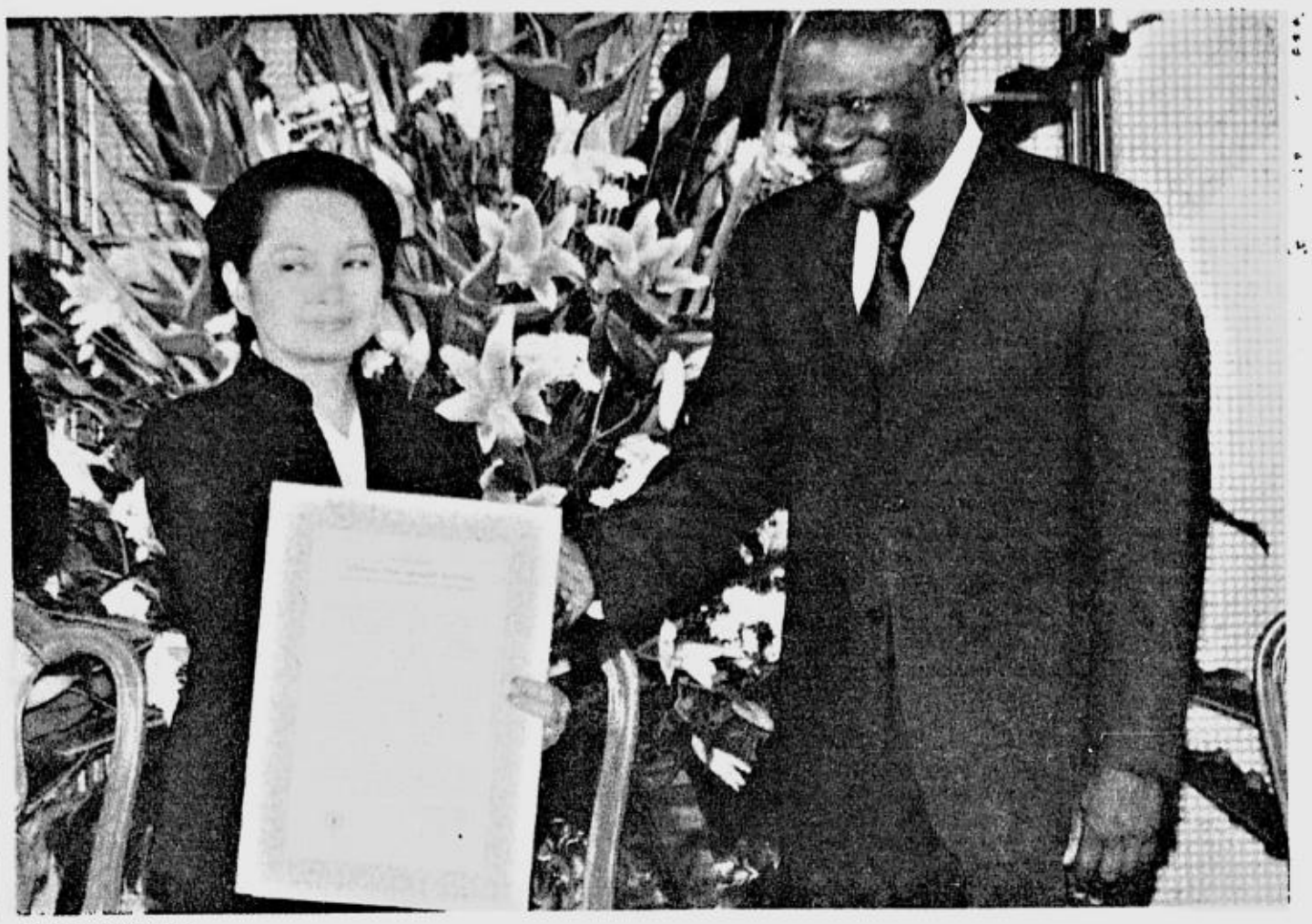
One of the advisers, prominent free-market economist Bernardo Villegas, later said Poe, 64, is now wading through economics textbooks in a bid to reassure wary voters.

Macapagal, 56, a US-trained economist, said that Filipinos have the most to gain by returning her to power.

"With a strong international reputation, economic expertise and deep governing experience, I can deliver the change we need," she said.

"Where our opponents will weaken international ties and drive away international investors, we shall continue to maintain the high international standing that has attracted billions of dollars in investments that have created new, high-paying jobs."

Macapagal, who came to power in 2001 on the back of a popular revolt that ousted popular movie star President Joseph Estrada, trails Poe by just under eight percentage points in the latest opinion polls. *AFP*



CERES AWARD
The Nobel Prize equivalent in the agriculture sector, the Ceres Award, is bestowed on President Macapagal by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization represented by its director general, Dr. Jacques Diouf, in recognition of her long-standing commitments to agriculture and social development in the country and to her contributions to the fight against poverty in Asia and around the world. AP

Longest ever hearing in high court's history

From page A1

trying to keep track of the intricate legal arguments being spewed about. It got colder when the crowd thinned as the day and then the night wore on.

The high court Clerk of Court Luzviminda Puno, who already wore a black toga over her red suit, wrapped a scarf around her neck to keep out the cold when night came.

Some in the audience fell asleep in their seats only to be awakened by the loud arguments; others chewed bubble gum to keep awake. Food and cellular phones were not allowed inside the session hall but some enterprising spectators managed to slip in candy and crackers.

When midnight came and went but the arguments still continued, Davide joked that it might be better if they went on "until 7 a.m." since it might not be safe to go home at that late hour.

Among the notable public personalities who attended the oral arguments were the Department of Justice's Merceditas Gutierrez, Representatives Salacnib Baterina and Teodoro Locsin, and former Solicitor-General Raul Goco.

Davide ended the sesssion saying: "It had been a long day and a long night for us. Thank you everyone."

Position papers

Before Davide ended the session, he ordered the four friends of court—retired SC Justice Vicente Mendoza, former 1986 Constitutional Commission member Fr. Joaquin Bernas S.J., former UP College of Law Dean Merlin Magallona, and UP law professor Ruben Balane—to submit their "position papers" on the case by noon on Monday.

Davide said these would only be "position papers" because they may not have enough time to submit a full memorandum.

Khan said the justices would wait for these papers before they make up their minds on the case.

"They will not do this piecemeal. I would think that there will be a swift resolution of the issue," Khan said.

When asked if the ruling might come out after the court's en banc session Tuesday, Khan said: "Not that soon but maybe after a few days."

'Legitimacy a non-issue' in FPJ disqualification

From page A1

born Filipino citizen.

"I see no reason why he is not only a citizen but also a natural-born citizen. He is in my view not only a citizen of the Philippines but also a natural-born citizen," Mendoza said.

Magallona concurred, saying "paternity as a manifestation of blood relationship is all that is needed to be established" for the child to get his father's citizenship.

Balane said the new Civil Code should apply retroactively to Poe if he can prove that his father recognized him, giving Poe his political right of citizenship.

He noted that the burden of proof rested with Poe, since he was the one "who seeks to establish himself as a legitimated child."

No distinction

Bernas said the Constitution "clearly says without distinction" that among those who are citizens of the Philippines are those whose fathers are Filipino citizens.

"Hence, what is needed for the application of *jus sanguinis* [citizenship by blood relation] according to the clear letter of the law is not legitimacy of the child but proof of paternity," Bernas said.

"As long as the parentage of the father is established, the filiation of that child to the father is sufficient condition to accord him Filipino citizenship," Mendoza added.

Magallona noted that the 1935 Constitution, under which Poe was born, held that Filipinos are "those whose fathers are citizens of the Philippines."

"The text of the law which reads 'those fathers are citizens of the Philippines' becomes an embodiment of the kernel principle of blood relationship, which provides no room for the notion of citizenship by legitimacy or legitimation," Magallona said.

"To introduce a distinction between legitimacy or illegitimacy in the status of the child vis-a-vis the derivation of his citizenship from the father defeats the transmissive essence of citizenship in blood relationship," he added.

Bernas noted that the law does not intend to "punish politically" children with the same status as Poe. "Blood injected out of love or passion is the same blood," he said.

Addressing the issue that Poe was born in 1939 and his parents were married a year after in 1940, Bernas said: "Paternity begins upon the fertilization of the ovum and not on marriage."

Decision soon

Despite his passionate appeal, the Supreme Court came no nearer to a decision.

Cleo Guerra, senior chief staff officer of the SC, said in a television interview the court would decide soon. "Considering the urgency, (a decision could be reached) maybe within the next two weeks."

SC spokesperson Ismail Khan Jr., asked if the ruling might come out after the court's en banc session on Tuesday, replied: "Not that soon but maybe after a few days."

SC jurisdiction

Bernas and Mendoza, who are experts in constitutional law, also said the Supreme Court had jurisdiction over the disqualification case.

"I submit, moreover, there is compelling reason for the Court to make its judgement now before the elections. A definitive judgement on (Poe's) qualification now will clear the air and forestall the unwelcome possibility of a winner being later challenged as ineligible," Bernas said.

Mendoza said the high court has jurisdiction over the case. He said, however, that it should recognize only Victorino Fornier's petition and not that of the two others.

The amici curiae were less than unanimous, however, in saying which agency of government should determine whether Poe's father had recognized him.

Some of them noted that Commission on Elections proceedings were "summary" in nature; receiving evidence on Poe's citizenship should require court-like proceedings.

This led Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. to say during the interpellation of Balane that the case might be remanded to the Comelec "where it began" since the SC was "not a trier of facts."

"Definitely not this court. It is not a trier of facts," Davide said.

Mendoza, an expert in constitutional and political issues, agreed upon questioning by the justices that the case may have to be remanded to the Comelec.

Magallona, an expert in international law, tried to establish whether Poe's grandfather Loren Pou, supposedly a Spanish subject, became a Filipino citizen by operation of the Treaty of Paris in 1899 when Spain ceded the Philippine Islands to the United States.

Magallona said that since there are no indications that Pou elected to retain his allegiance to the Queen of Spain, the generations after him are Filipino.

"Citizenship is transmissible," Magallona said, noting this lies in "blood relationship."

But when asked to address the central issue of whether Poe was a natural-born Filipino, Magallona declined to give a categorical answer, saying that the Supreme Court would have to decide this if it sits as a "trier of facts."

Pressed by Chief Justice Davide if there are enough facts at hand, Magallona conceded: "My presentation is based on assumptions."

Unprecedented

Like its landmark decisions confirming the legitimacy on the post-Edsa II administration, the Supreme Court will be breaking new legal ground in the controversial case.

Bernas and Magallona said the Poe case has no precedent to draw on.

"Unprecedented" was how Magallona described the significance of the case.

Bernas said the prominent cases cited by the petitioners as well as by Poe's lawyers could not serve as basis to draw a parallel decision.

He noted that the factual milieu of the prominent cases being used both for and against Poe was different from that of the actor's.

These cases did not involve a Filipino father and an alien mother siring a son out of wedlock.

The facts of the Poe case, however, remain at best murky.

Bernas, for one, admitted that he cannot say as a matter of fact that Poe was born an illegitimate child.

"I make no judgment," Bernas said.

Campaign rhetoric

In Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya, Poe continued with his defiant campaign rhetoric, even using, not for the first time, crowd-pleasing lines from his old movies.

Despite nursing a bad cold that almost forced him to cancel his visit, Poe addressed his supporters at a rally. While saying he was a patient man, he also warned that his patience could run thin.

"Lahat ng paninira ginagawa nila tinitiis lang natin (I have endured their mudslinging)," Poe told a crowd of around 3,000. *"Hintayin muna natin kapag puno na ang salop saka tayo gagalaw* (I'll act when I've had my fill)," he added, drawing applause.

Asked to comment on the oral arguments, Poe said, "So far, so good."

"I still believe in the Supreme Court," he said in Filipino. "I always hope for the best." ***With reports from Christine O. Avendaño, Michael Lim Ubac, Reuters, AFP***

FPJ: Debate is just all talk

From page A1

Roco had earlier invited FPJ and President Macapagal-Arroyo to a debate, after the two failed to attend a forum sponsored by foreign correspondents for all presidential candidates last week.

Poe shrugged off the offer, saying a debate is just "pure talk."

"Debates divide (the) people. *'Tsaka puro salita 'yun, wala namang nagagawa* (Besides, that is pure talk, and nothing is being accomplished)," he told reporters.

All for show

He would only accept the challenge for a presidential debate if it would be held in depressed areas like Payatas in Quezon City where people would be allowed to ask questions.

"Kung sa loob lang na aircon na kuwarto at television, radio stations, *huwag na lang, papogi lang 'yan* (If the debate will be held inside an airconditioned room, television and radio stations, I'll drop it, it is all for show)," he added.

Poe also affirmed that he is a genuine Filipino citizen, saying that the accusations hurled against him were political harassment.

"Mawala na ang aking popularidad at kayamanan. Huwag lang nila akong alisan ng aking pagka Pilipino (They can make me give up my popularity and wealth but they can not strip me of being a Filipino)" Poe said in tears.

When asked to react on the President's wish to debate with those leading in the surveys—apparently referring to Poe—the action king replied: *"Bakit hindi? Pagdating sa dulo, sasagutin ko 'yan* (Why not? In the end, I will accept the challenge).

Ms Macapagal has already expressed willingness to join the debate "any time."

All about clout

Yesterday, she even took potshots at the lack of political and economic background of Poe, expressing fears that such candidates would drive away foreign investors and weaken the country's ties with the international community.

"This campaign is about clout and experience, not a crash course in economics governance," the President said in a statement following reports that Poe was given a crash course on economics by one of his Harvard-trained advisers.

Ms Macapagal said she can deliver the change the country needs with her "strong international reputation, economic expertise and deep governing experience."

"Our opponents will weaken international ties and drive away international investors, (whereas) we shall continue to maintain the high international standing that has attracted billions of dollars in investments that have created new, high-paying jobs," she said.

Her spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said having crash courses on economics and governance is not enough for one to become President. "Running a country is no joke," Bunye said in a briefing.

Nautical highway

Ms Macapagal said she has created three million jobs in the past two years while her detained predecessor only managed 500,000. She promised to deliver six million more jobs given another six years in Malacañang.

"We have created the nautical republic highway that unifies the country, bringing the benefits of fast travel and the ability to trade goods to people from Luzon to Mindanao," she said.

She also promised to make sure every barangay would have a school with a computer by the end of the next three years.

"While corruption thrived in the past, for the first time ever, high level government officials have been made subject to corruption checks that identify anyone who attempts to profit from their position," she said.

Less posters clutter up Metro roads

By Luige del puerto

ELECTION officers yesterday reported a dramatic decrease in the number of propaganda material illegally posted in Metro Manila.

"(During the election campaign of 2001), Metro Manila looked like a collage of posters, streamers and banners ... even plants and trees were not spared," said lawyer Romeo Alcantara, Pasig election officer. "We are seeing little of that now."

Alcantara attributed the change to the effort of the Commission on Elections to rid the metropolis of illegally posted campaign materials, and the assistance which the media extends to the program.

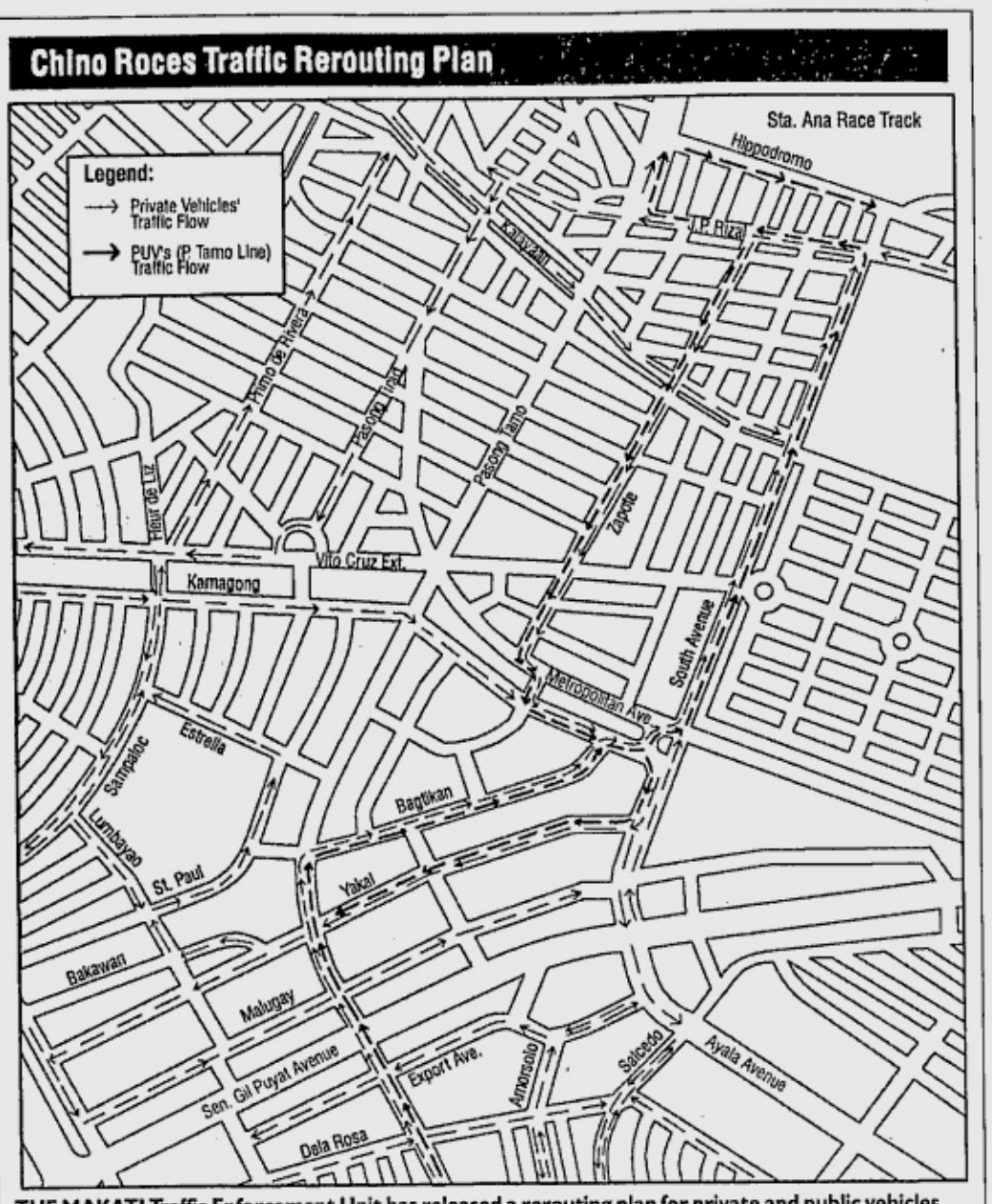
During the anti-illegal posters drive three weeks ago, more than 200 "poster boys" were collared in Manila alone.

In Mandaluyong City, election officer laywer Ma. Anne Lacuesa said it also helped that their mandate was clearer now compared with the last elections.

Before, we had to talk to candidates before tearing down their posters," she said. "Now, any person may remove posters. The police and the Metro Manila Development Authority have also been deputized."

Marikina election officer lawyer Jovencio Balanquit urged the public to report illegal propaganda materials put up outside designated areas.

"We can not cover the whole city," Balanquit said. "That is why I am asking residents to help us. We will take it from there."



THE MAKATI Traffic Enforcement Unit has released a rerouting plan for private and public vehicles passing through Chino Roces (formerly Pasong Tamo) Avenue between J.P. Rizal Street and Bagtikan Street, where the road improvement work for the avenue is currently concentrated. The map above shows the suggested route for affected motorists. Inspector Gilbert Loteria said the diversion plan would take effect today and last up to March 31. Motorists are requested to avoid the area or to make allowances for time due to expected heavy traffic.

VACC: Cons happy, but not victims

By Margaux Ortiz

THE RECENT decision of the Supreme Court to reopen the case of convicted kidnappers Roderick Licayan and Roberto Lara has set back the victims' quest for justice, according to the group Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption.

"While we respect the decision of the (high court), we have to emphasize that this recent development will cause more pain for the victims of the crime," said Dante Jimenez, VACC founding chair.

During a phone interview, Jimenez blamed poor police work for the slow and inefficient delivery of justice.

He said that most policemen fail to follow up cases efficiently and present the complete evidence to convict felons, as in the case of Lara and Licayan.

"I wonder why after so many years, it was New Bilibid Prisons chaplain Fr. Robert Olaguer who (facilitated the serving of the arrest) warrant ... for the arrest of the other suspects in the kidnap case," Jimenez said.

Police last month arrested in Negros Occidental Pedro Mabansag, one of the accused and the alleged mastermind of the kidnapping. Mabansag has since cleared Lara, his nephew, of involvement in the kidnapping.

Jimenez emphasized that the police should have scrupulously followed up the whereabouts of the suspects years ago.

"Once the case is reopened, the victims will become victims twice over when they appear again in court to testify," Jimenez said.

"While justice (in this country) is slow, future reopening of cases resulting from poor police work will further it slow down," Jimenez stressed.

METROBRIEFS

Stabbed 50 times

A 17-year-old girl was found dead with 50 stab wounds in Arevalo Compound, Muntinlupa City. The body was discovered by 14-year-old Princess Zapanta. The police found a kitchen knife, a sleeveless shirt and a pair of shorts at the crime scene but have yet to determine a suspect. *Joyce Abaño*

Killed in smashup

A JOY ride turned tragic in Quezon City before dawn yesterday when a tricycle full of teenagers collided with a Toyota Tamaraw van of the Manila Bulletin. Cristina Abayan, 19, was killed and her friends Sonny Enciso, 25; Flordemay Villeza, 19, and Florencio Canton, 18, were injured. The tricycle was turning left into Cambridge Street from Kamias Road at about 1 a.m. when the van driven by Fabian Cumpa, 33, ran into it. Cumpa said the tricycle appeared from behind a truck and it was too late for him to stop. *Edson Tandoc Jr.*

Fire in Manila

A HALF-HOUR fire that hit a bar along San Andres Street, Manila, damaged P150,000 worth of property Thursday night. No one was hurt in the blaze that began at 10:56 p.m. Meanwhile, an adjacent house was damaged. The cause of the fire was yet to be known. *Leila Salaverria*

Maynilad warning

MAYNILAD Water Services Inc. is warning its customers against unauthorized collectors after more than 300 bill receipts were stolen from its office in Quezon City. The bills cover Lagro and Jordan Plains Subdivisions. Maynilad suggests that affected customers pay directly to Maynilad offices or to authorized payment centers or call 418-8134 or 1626. *Edson Tandoc Jr.*

Cop doubling as FPJ extra dismissed from service

By Tarra Quismundo

TWO POLICEMEN, including an officer who had appeared on screen opposite action king Fernando Poe Jr., have been dismissed from service, according to the People's Law Enforcement Board of Manila.

PO3 Justiniano Betorin and Insp. Delfin Laurente, who had played the part of a gangster in several films starring the presidential aspirant, have been stripped of their police powers after they failed to show up in any of the hearings regarding their administrative case before the PLEB.

Laurente and Betorin in 1999 had been charged with grave misconduct when they were both detailed at the Western Police District Station 6 in Sta. Ana, Manila.

The PLEB rendered its decision after the members failed to hear from either Laurente or Betorin.

Complainant Anita Tuscano had accused the policemen—along with PO3 Ernesto Macaraeg and PO3 Romeo Pagilagan—of ransacking her house in San Andres Bukid, Manila and taking P50,000 in cash on the night of July 9, 1999.

The four lawmen claimed that the house was being used for illegal gambling activities.

Macaraeg and Pagilagan, who attended the scheduled hearings, pleaded their case before the board and were cleared of the charges.

Laurente recently filed a motion for the PLEB to reconsider his dismissal, citing that he was not informed of the hearings.

But the members of the PLEB board said that Laurente was sent subpoenas to appear in the proceedings.

Reyes' Naktf secret weapons

ON TARGET *Ramon Tulfo*

THE BEST thing that ever happened on the crime scene is the appointment of former Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes as chief of the National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force, or Naktf for short.

Reyes has done more as Naktf chief than he did as Armed Forces chief of staff and defense chief. This is not to disparage his accomplishments as AFP chief and defense secretary, but Reyes has exceeded expectations as anti-kidnapping czar.

One of his critics, Sen. Panfilo Lacson, a presidential aspirant, said Reyes would not succeed as Naktf chief because he was a military officer and did not have background in law enforcement.

Lacson is now eating humble pie.

* * *

Almost every week, the public gets good news about the capture of notorious kidnappers, those in the wanted list.

The number of kidnappers is dwindling because of Reyes' Naktf.

The kidnappers are on the run. And because they're on the run they can't go about their monkey business. The Naktf keeps them always on the run.

* * *

What's Reyes' secret weapon?

Not what is, but what are his secret weapons.

One, he's been successful in making the public take part in hunting down the kidnappers by putting their faces in posters. These posters are pasted in places throughout the country where many people gather, such as public markets. Because of those posters, several kidnappers were captured on tips from informants.

Reyes has even made use of newspapers and television in displaying the faces of notorious kidnappers.

Naktf gives handsome rewards to persons who tell on kidnappers. Big monetary rewards attract informers. Millions of pesos have been disbursed by Reyes' Naktf to informants.

* * *

But the best secret weapon-and it will no longer be secret after this publication-is the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (ISAFP).

ISAFP, whose job is to spy on communist and Moro rebels and their sympathizers, is now at the forefront of the anti-kidnapping campaign.

Because of ISAFP, headed by Commodore Tirso Danga, once a member of the rightist RAM, kidnappers are falling one by one. Danga and his men work without fanfare but get results.

The reticent Danga refuses to talk about ISAFP's accomplishments on the anti-kidnapping campaign.

By the way, ISAFP was the most feared military intelligence unit during the time of President Marcos. With what it's done now, people should look at it more favorably.

* * *

One of the criticisms against Angelo Reyes when he was AFP chief of staff was that he was never a combat officer from lieutenant to major. Most of his early military career was spent in diplomatic posts abroad.

But the young Reyes took advantage of his foreign postings by studying in the best schools abroad, including Harvard.

Because of his foreign studies, he can be considered an intellectual. Few of his colleagues can match his intellect.

So, Reyes has put his brains to good use in going after kidnappers. The management degree he acquired at Harvard he has used by recruiting the right people for Naktf.

Let's hope Reyes doesn't rest on his laurels. There are still many kidnappers still on the loose.

Be kind, pleads judge . . .

From page A20

stenographers' recordings on Feb. 26 and compare them to the court transcripts.

She also allowed the prosecutors to compare the transcripts to their own tape recording, though she said that the tapes would be regarded as "unofficial" records. She had barred the use of tape recorders during the Kuratong Baleleng hearings and, on Jan. 16, confiscated the tape recorder of the prosecution.

The recorder and the tapes were returned after the hearing. They now serve as the prosecution's bases in saying that there had been omissions in the transcripts.

Yadao also ordered the defense to listen to the tapes on Feb. 26 and file a comment on the prosecution's motion for corrections.

Sanidad told reporters that there were "obvious omissions" in the transcript and they want to make sure that what transpired during the hearings would be accurately reflected on the transcript.

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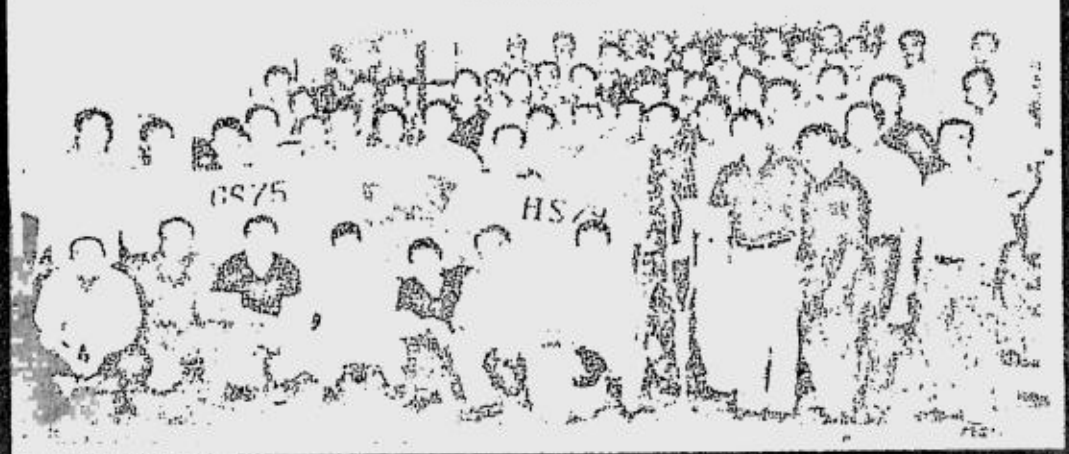

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JV not allowed to rally, hits Atienza

By Luige del Puerto
and Tarra Quismundo

SAN JUAN Mayor Joseph Victor "JV" Ejercito yesterday cried foul over the continued denial of his group's request to hold a political rally in the city of Manila.

"He is very selective," Ejercito said in criticizing Manila Mayor Lito Atienza.

"This is political harassment," the San Juan mayor said. "This is already the campaign period. I have never experienced being denied of a permit to hold a rally during the campaign season," he added.

Ejercito, the son of deposed president Joseph Estrada by actress Guia Gomez, is the chair of the PMP-Youth-Batang Pinoy Para kay FPJ.

The group has requested to hold rallies in Balut, Tondo on Feb. 15; in Moriones, Tondo on Feb. 16; in Parola on Feb. 20; in Baseco on Feb. 24; and in Sampaloc on Feb. 28 but these have allegedly been denied.

The mayor said there seemed to be a deliberate effort to deny opposition groups, such as PMP-Youth, a chance to be heard in Manila.

The mayor faxed reporters documents which showed correspondence between Manila administrator Gerino Tolentino Jr. and the Western Police District about the PMP-Youth's request.

One document showed Tolentino asking the Western Police District to comment on the request.

In another document, Rafael Corpuz, WPD-district deputy director for operations, recommended to deny Ejercito's group the permit for failing to pinpoint the exact venues of their gathering

Corpuz also noted that the rallies would be held at 8 p.m., which is "beyond the allowable hours" from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

He added that the nature of the rally was not clear and the request letter did not specify the candidate who would join it.

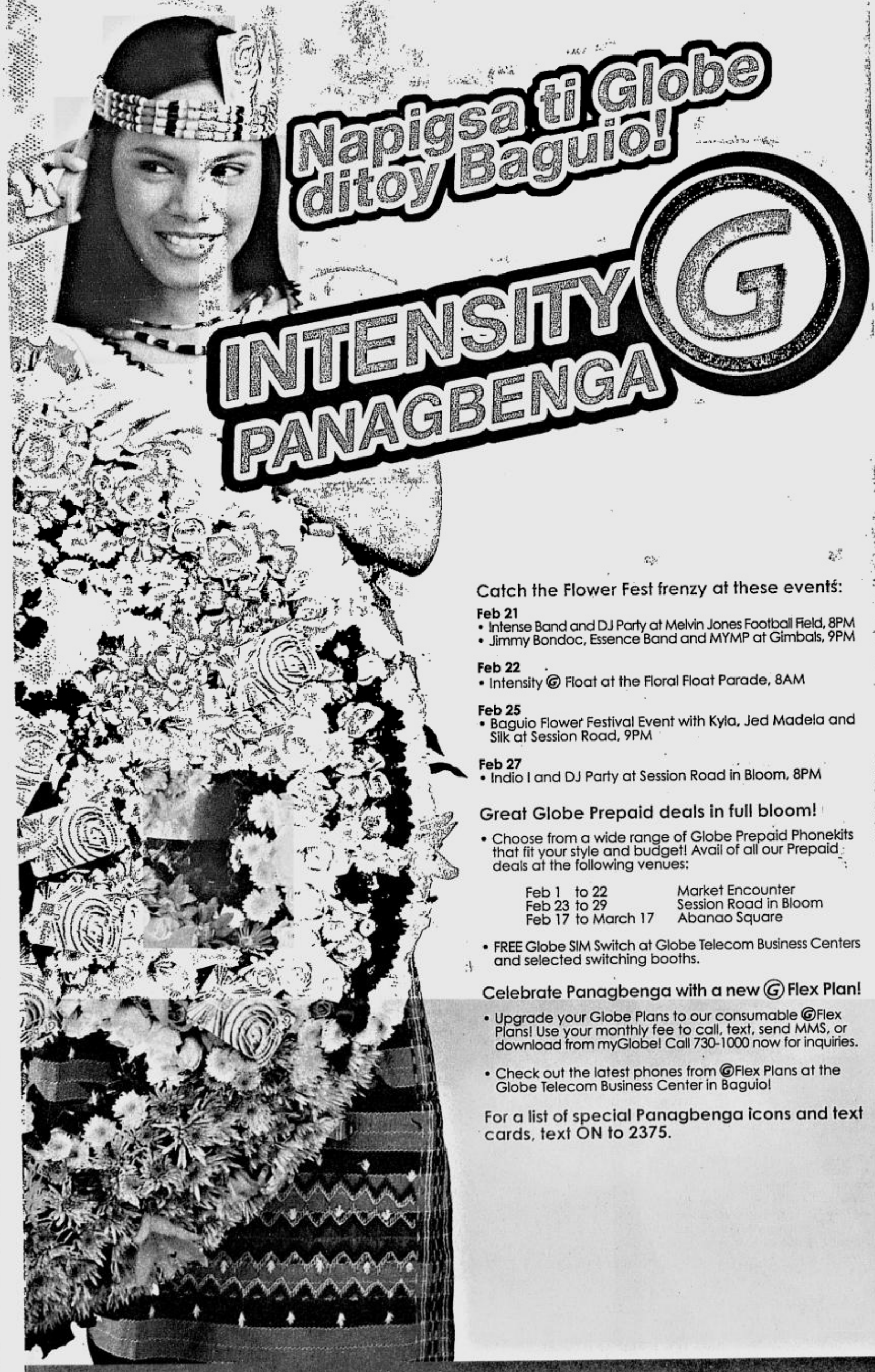
Corpuz added that there was information that terrorists might take advantage of the rallies.

"The excuses are flimsy. How could we hold political rallies during the day when people are at work?" he said.

But Atienza denied that he was selective, adding that everybody was welcome to rally in Manila, "especially the opposition," as long as the rally was coordinated with the city.

He explained that permit applications must be submitted to City Hall's permits bureau at least five days before the event.

FIRE SALE
Employees of SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City make a run for it when fire breaks out at the Triple V restaurant inside the complex. The fire started at 11:30 a.m. and was put out 20 minutes later. No one was hurt in the incident, an arson investigator said.
TEXT BY LUIGE DEL PUERTO, PHOTO BY RUDY ESPERAS



Be kind, pleads judge handling Kuratong case

By Edson Tandoc Jr.

JUDGE Maria Theresa Yadao was in a good mood until she saw a press release.

Three months after she dismissed the Kuratong Baleleng case, where presidential candidate Sen. Panfilo Lacson is one of the accused, Yadao yesterday appealed to the media to be "kind to the court and to the judge who has been under fire ever since."

Judge Yadao of Quezon City Regional Trial Court branch 81 made the appeal after she read a release that questioned the "omissions and errors" in the transcript of at least two hearings.

The press release, copies of which were distributed to members of the media who attended yesterday's hearing, found its way to Yadao through a reporter who unconsciously gave his copy to the court's sheriff.

After the hearing, the judge called the attention of the reporters to the press release, which she said was "grossly unfair to the court."

The press release quoted one of the prosecutors as saying that the "grossly incorrect transcript of stenographic notes show Yadao's incapability to judge the case objectively."

Prosecution lawyer Arno Sanidad told reporters that they were "not commenting on her decision, but on the transcripts alone."

The prosecution has filed a motion to correct the transcript of stenographic notes taken during the hearings on Nov. 28, 2003 and Jan. 16, 2004, after the prosecutors noticed some omissions. The prosecutors also want to preserve the tapes that were used in recording the proceedings in question.

During yesterday's hearing, Yadao allowed members of the prosecution to listen to the

BE KIND/ A19

Manila lawmen search for Jesus

By Leila Salaverria

WESTERN Police District officials have formed a task force to look for the 300-year-old image of the Baby Jesus that was stolen from the arms of the Our Lady of Consolation and Correa statue at the San Agustin Church in Intramuros, Manila last week.

WPD spokesperson Chief Insp. Gerry Agunod said that members of the district's theft and robbery section, as well as Station 5 policemen, would make up the unit that would scour the city's antique dealer shops and collectors' lairs in search of the historical image.

The WPD spokesperson also appealed to collectors to report any information that would lead to the recovery of the image.

The image of the Baby Jesus was disassembled after it was taken from the arms of the Lady of Consolation and Correa, which is housed inside the historic San Agustin Church and venerated by church goers.

The Baby Jesus' head, arms and legs—all made of ivory—were taken. Left behind in the church's corridors were the image's silver crown, torso and clothes. The lady's image, which is made of ivory and wearing a bejeweled crown, was left untouched.

According to San Agustin director Fr. Pedro Galende the image was discovered missing the day before Valentine's Day. Church officials believe that the thieves hid in San Agustin's confessional when it was closed for lunch, then stole the image.

It's us or you go it alone–PBA

By June Navarro

ALL OR nothing.

Unless the Basketball Association of the Philippines accepts this condition, the Philippine Basketball Association will no longer have anything to do with the formation, training and fielding of the Philippine team to the Asian Games.

"When you form a team, it should not be piecemeal. You form it not by just getting the best players available, but also hiring a coach you are confident with and a staff that complements the entire organization," PBA chair Buddy Encarnado told the INQUIRER yesterday.

"Unless you show there's a better basketball organization than the PBA in the country, I will be glad to yield our position," said Encarnado, Sta. Lucia Realty's representative to the PBA Board of Governors, who took over as chair from Jun Cabalan of Barangay Ginebra this season.

Encarnado pointed out that getting the right team chemistry is difficult if the PBA stars work under coaches outside of the pro league.

"The players, coaches, team officials and the rest of the staff coming from the PBA should make up the team. Otherwise, it will simply be a waste of talent," Encarnado said.

Responding to the clamor of fans, the PBA took over the responsibility of fielding the national quintet to the Asian Games starting in 1990 after forging a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the BAP.

The first PBA All-Star team to the Asiad, coached by Robert Jaworski, finished an outclassed second behind China.

The 1994 squad handled by Norman Black landed fourth, Tim Cone's Centennial team wound up third in 1998 while Jong Uichico's 2002 squad almost made it to the gold medal game before losing to South Korea and eventually finishing No. 4 again.

Pushed against the wall, secretary general Graham Lim said the BAP is willing to sit down with the PBA to put a lid on the controversy. But he stressed that the Asian Games is still two years away and there's no need to rush things.

"It's better if we could talk about it. But it's too early because right now we are focusing on our basketball program. I know there will come a time that we will need them and I will not think twice of asking their help," said Lim.

The BAP had earlier formed a long-term partnership with Cebuana Lhuillier, which agreed to bankroll the expenses of the national team.

ENCARNADO: When you form a team, it should not be done piecemeal. PDI PHOTO

ISEDEÑO celebrates after sinking his putt on the last hole to win by eight shots. ROMY HOMILLADA

Isedeño, Negros pals rule Uratex caddies tilt

JOSE Isedeño and his Negros Occidental team completed a sweep of the major awards in the annual Uratex National Caddies Championship yesterday at the Valley Golf and Country Club's Executive course in Antipolo.

Showing up his younger rivals, the 47-year-old Isedeño capped a record-breaking eight-shot victory in the individual category with an eagle-spiked four-under-par 66. He goes home to Bacolod with at least P75,000 plus a television set and the Roberto Go Cheng Cup.

Isedeño's brilliant form rubbed off on his Negros teammates as they outduelled host Valley by four strokes in the team competition.

Julieto Espuerta carded a 70 and either of the 73s of Rodrigo Marabe Jr. and Robert Malaga counted in Negros' 209 for the day and a 72-hole total of 860 in the four-to-play, three-to-count format. The Negrenses succeeded Wack Wack, winner the past two years, as champions.

Canlubang's Teresa Carpio had her share of glory on a day of comebacks, erasing a five-shot deficit and going on to still beat Susan Delfino of Kagitingan by four for the ladies division title.

Carpio shot a 78 for 245 against the 249 of Delfino who limped home with an 87. Nilda Borja of Southwoods took third place with an 88-260.

As champions of the annual event the late business tycoon Robert Cheng launched in 1988, the Negros team shared the P75,000 top prize while Carpio took home P20,000.

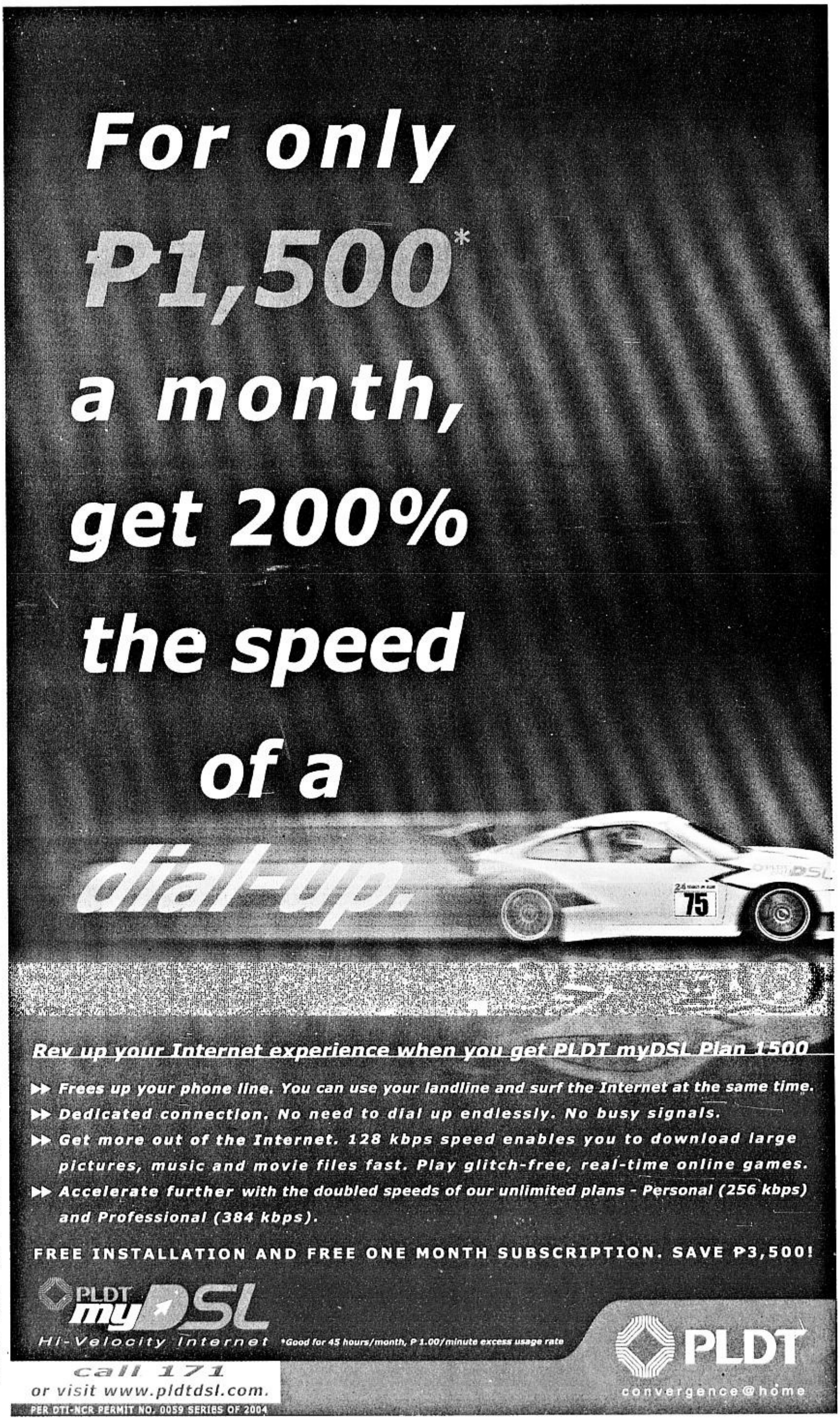
Their winnings, however, were less than the P105,000 earned by Roderick Borja of Japan Air Resort for scoring a hole-in-one on the 11th.

Isedeño, who had earlier rounds of 73, 67 and 69, highlighted his closing round by reaching the par 5 ninth hole in two and getting his eagle from 16 feet.

Asked what he would do with his biggest paycheck since joining the event in 1992, Isedeño said he'll use it for the education of his two daughters.

Iloilo's Rene Menor made a 70 to finish second behind Isedeño with 283. Elmer Saban of Apo matched Isedeño's 66 and Jomar Pepito of host Valley carded a 69 to tie for third at 284.

Valley lost its bid for the team title after a 214 and an 864 total. Apo shot 216 to finish third with 867, followed by Iloilo 869 and Bacolod 875. Wack Wack, the defending champion, faded with 223 to take sixth place at 884.



Sumcad, 4 Pinoys lead Open 'rabbits'

By Jong Arcano

ORLAN Sumcad fired the only sub-par score—a one-under 71—to top the 18-hole qualifying yesterday and lead four other Filipino "rabbits" for next week's DHL-Philippine Open golf championship at the Langer course of the Riviera Country Club in Silang, Cavite.

But jungolfer Remijin Camping was not among them.

Sumcad picked up three birdies in a four-hole stretch from the sixth of the Couples course as he towed the 10 qualifiers from a field of 22 starters, including two Japanese and three South Koreans, into the big battle starting Thursday.

Also making it were Japan's Yoshinaga Tomakaru, Filipinos Lito Rempojo and Ebarra Quiachon who all carded 73s, South Korea's Lee Seong Ki and Cho Min Gyu, who had 74s; Edgardo Ababa (RP) and Kim Chang Hoi (SK), who shot 75s; Makoto Konohara (Japan; 76) and Randy Garalde (RP; 77).

Aside from Kim and Cho who are amateurs, all the rabbits will have a shot at the $24,225 (about P1.3 million) first prize at stake in the Open presented by San Miguel Beer, with Mitsubishi Motors as the official car. The other sponsors are WWW Express, Pagcor, Mizuno, BMG Solar, UBix, Nextel and the City of Makati.

Camping's bid for history encountered a big early roadblock as she slipped from a hail of six consecutive bogeys from the second. She wound up tied for 18th.

The 16-year-old Fil-Cuban was hoping to join Fil-American Ria Quiazon as the first female entries of the Open since its inception.

PATRIMONIO: In the twilight of a glorious career PDI PHOTO

The old star chases career milestones

ALVIN Patrimonio has a couple of numbers on his mind as he enters his 17th season as a pro in the Philippine Basketball Association.

The first figure is 14, the number of points he needs to reach the 15,000-point plateau. And then comes 789, the points he still needs to move past Abet Guidaben as No. 2 in the all-time scoring list.

An assist short of 2,000, the numbers the Purefoods star fancies most are 40 and 1—figures associated with the Los Angeles Lakers' Karl Malone, who, Alvin knows, is among the yardsticks of longevity and excellence in the NBA.

Malone after all is past 40 but remains No. 1 in the power forward position in basketball's biggest stage.

"I hope to reach that age still regarded among the top players of the league," said Patrimonio, a four-time PBA Most Valuable Player.

The former Mapua star is among the league's senior citizens at 37—the third oldest, in fact, after Chris Jackson and Jerry Codiñera—and the 2004 campaign represents the final season of a three-year pact he signed with Purefoods in 2002.

But if he had his way, Alvin wants to stay around as long as he can. For so long as Purefoods wants him there, and for so long as the motivation, desire and competitive fire are still burning inside him.

Times have changed, though. He no longer is the main man but just one of the options in a team so talented it reminds Alvin of the Hotdogs of the late '80s and early '90s.

Patrimonio is also coming off his worst season of 4.9 points, 2.3 rebounds and 18 minutes a game.

His streak of consecutive games is still alive at 538, but he is still nursing a calf injury that is keeping him out of practice just days into the new season.

Incentives for coaches out Tuesday

THE SOUTHEAST Asian Games incentives for the national coaches will be ready by Tuesday.

Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain promised this yesterday after some coaches complained about the delay in their incentives amounting to P4.25 million.

"We will be ready by Tuesday at the latest," said Buhain, adding the delay was due to some discrepancies in the claims since some gold medalists didn't employ national coaches.

"Actually, I think we will be ready by Monday, but just to make sure, we will give it Tuesday so that everybody's happy," Buhain added.

The bonus for mentors is provided under RA 9064, otherwise known as the Athletes and Coaches Incentives Act. According to the incentive scheme, a gold medal assures a coach of P50,000, a silver P25,000 and bronze P5,000.

The country won 49 golds, 57 silvers and 75 bronzes to place fourth overall in the last SEAG.

Coaches need to submit the training records, complete with the signatures of the medal-winning athletes. *Marc Anthony Reyes*

Petron beach volley starts today

A MERRY mix of the beautiful and the brawny will be in the spotlight today when the first stop of the 2004 Petron Ladies Beach Volleyball tournament comes off the wraps at the Clearwater Country Club in Pampanga.

The quarterly beach volleyfest, presented by Petron, will have 20 games in the elimination round beginning at 1 p.m. today. The pairings of the 10 teams composed of two volleyball players each will be drawn by lots.

Clearwater CEO Ike Madamba, together with officials from Petron and Speedo, the official outfitter, will make the ceremonial serve to open the two-day volleyball extravaganza.

A new champion will be crowned in the finals tomorrow since past champions have been excluded from taking part in the first leg.

The past champions will have their chance to strut their stuff in the succeeding legs, according to organizer Tisha Abundo, a former commissioner of the Philippine Sports Commission.

"The former winners will gather in a grand finale later this year to determine the year's true beach volleyball queens," she said.

Leading the field are the veteran team of Lou Maranon and Sherrie Anne Garcia, movie actress Isabel Granada and Marysol Teves, and newcomers Merwyl Yalung and Danica Macalino.

The champion will receive P10,000 and a trophy while the runner-up will get P5,000.

2 GMs, 6 IMs vying in PCMA chess

GRANDMASTERS Joey Antonio and Bong Villamayor and Asian Zonal champion IM Ronald Dableo head a stellar cast seeing action in the inaugural tournament of the Philippine Chess Masters Association (PCMA) tomorrow at the PSC Canteen at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex.

The seven-round Swiss System event is being held to celebrate the 77th birthday of Florencio Campomanes, honorary president of the World Chess Federation (Fide) and the country's first national master.

Aside from Antonio, Villamayor and Dableo, the other top contenders are IMs Chito Garma, Nelson Mariano II, Petronio Roca, Richard Bitoon and Bado Nadera.

The lion's share of P20,000 from a total pot of P77,000 will go to the champion, with the second placer getting P15,000 and the third placer P10,000.

Registration starts at 8:30 a.m. on tournament day. For inquiries, call Chito Garma, PCMA vice president, at 0917-9531908. *Trina Ibarle*

SPORTSWATCH

Aguilar begins defense of moto crown

AGUILAR

REVTEX Rocket Glenn Aguilar tries to cement his status as the region's top rider when he opens defense of his Asian crown in the first leg of the FIM Asian Supercross in Bali, Indonesia, on Sunday. Aguilar, who is being sent to Bali by the National Motorcycle Sports and Safety Association (Namssa), headed by its president, Ken Falco, will have his hands full against the best riders from Japan, Australia, Malaysia, New Zealand, China, Thailand, Guam, Sri Lanka and host Indonesia. Federation Internationale de Motocycliste (FIM) Asian Motocross president Macky Carapiet is joining Aguilar in the motocross festival, which will have its second stop in Puerto Princesa City next month. "The pressure is so intense when you are the champion," admitted the 27-year-old Aguilar, who made history last year when he became the first Filipino to win Asia's most prestigious motocross title. Aguilar began the local motocross season with a bang by ruling both the premier Pro Open and Pro 125 categories of the Philippine National Motocross Championships in Batangas last month. Only last week, he duplicated the feat with another twin kill during the PNMC's second stage in La Union.

St. James barges into WVL final four

ST. JAMES Academy of Malabon won twice last Sunday to complete the semifinal cast in the high school division of the 9th Milo BEST Women's Volleyball League (WVL) at the Miriam College gym. The SJAM belles topped Holy Family School, 25-11, 25-13, and Antipolo Lady of Lourdes School, 26-24, 25-12, to join early semifinalists San Antonio de Padua College, St. Scholastica's College and La Salle College of Antipolo. Colegio de San Juan completed a sweep of its 10 elementary assignments by beating Dominican School, 25-21, 25-12, to advance to the semifinals. Poveda Learning Center and St. Benedict College also made it to the elementary division's final four by hurdling their respective rivals.

Vita-Arpillada in Tanduay pool challenge

ANOTHER Asian Games veteran, Victor Arpillada, will try to dethrone defending champion Johnson Vita in the Search for Tanduay the No. 1 Billiards Player today at the Robinsons Galleria. Vita, a 51-year-old native of Nagcarlan, Laguna, found Butch Suarez too tough to crack but managed to pull off a 5-3 victory in their rematch showdown last week in the event sponsored by Tanduay, Robinsons Malls, Accel, Hope Cigarettes and Rommel's Billiards, the official table. In the many-time national player Arpillada, Vita faces his most dangerous opponent so far in his five-week reign as Tanduay's featured player. The match will be aired over NBN-4 from 8-9 p.m., with hosts Danny Romero and Recah Trinidad. "*Mas mabigat talaga ang kalaban ko* (I'm facing a strong foe) this time," said Vita. Meanwhile, budding cue artists can still register for the tournament supported by billiards patron Sebastian Chua on March 8 at Rommel's Billiards Biak-Na-Bato corner Retiro Avenue. For inquiries, call the Corporate Billiards League secretariat at 0918-9219934 or log on to www.corporatebilliardsleague@yahoo.com.

Milo Checkmate clinic begins today

A SPECIAL Milo Checkmate Saturday clinic will be held in three venues in Metro Manila starting today and in Walter Mart, Plaridel, Bulacan, on Sunday. The clinic in Metro Manila will be held at Jollibee Greenhills Shopping Center, San Juan, from 1:30 to 5 p.m.; Rizal Memorial Sports Complex inside the Badminton Bldg. in Vito Cruz, Manila, from 8 a.m. to 12 noon; and at the fourth level of the mini-arcade of J&F Divino Bldg. at 967 Aurora Blvd. (near LRT 2 Station) in Quezon City from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 2 to 6 p.m. The Sunday classes in Plaridel, Bulacan, will be held at the 2nd floor of Walter Mart from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Enrollees are advised to proceed and register at the venue site of their choice at least before the clinic starts. For inquiries, call MCC at 826-8560 or 0916-8521069.

Bel-Air Makati fun run tomorrow

BEL-AIR Village of Makati City is holding a fun run at 5:30 a.m. tomorrow. Organized by the Sangguniang Kabataan, led by SK chair Karen Mendoza, and Barangay Bel-Air's health committee headed by Kagawad Charito Dimayuga, and with the full support of barangay chair Constancia Lichauco, the Takbo Para sa Puso fun run hopes to promote cardiovascular awareness among Bel-Air residents. Participants will be divided into seven age categories. Participants may register at the barangay office up to noon today. The race is open to all residents of the barangay. Prizes await the winners.

AHMC golf fund-raiser set March 12

THE ASIAN Hospital and Medical Center will hold its annual invitational golf tournament on March 12 at the Orchard Golf and Country Club in Cavite. The tournament is AHMC's fund-raising project to support the hospital's humanitarian services. For inquiries, call Dr. Hermogenes Villareal at 771-9295 or Gernie/Gen at 876-5860.

YEAR'S BEST National coach Marilee Estampador (right) presents the Athena Female Fencer of the Year award to Ronella Espadilla, an Education major at the University of the East who dominated the women's sabre event and swept all legs of the 3rd Escrima Liga National Interschool fencing championships recently. The award is sponsored by Athena, the milk for women.

Bargaining leverage

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

I KNEW it.

Like me, Ming Ramos, the former First Lady, had also questioned the move to strike badminton out from the list of disciplines for next year's SEA Games in Manila.

The source of that bit of news was Richie Garcia himself, who heads the technical committee of the Philippine Olympic Committee tasked to draft the list of games to be contested in the 2005 Manila SEA Games. Richie was appointed to that post by Cito Dayrit, the POC president.

"Yes, you are right," said Richie Garcia, calling me up through his cell phone. "Badminton was not included in the initial list of sports to be contested in the 2005 Manila SEA Games."

I had written about its scrapping. My main argument was we just couldn't ignore the sudden surge in popularity of badminton in our country.

For one, how can we kill a phenomenon?

Badminton has become a craze this side of the globe that warehouses are now being converted into badminton courts in wild abandon.

For another, we already had a Weena Lim proudly representing badminton for the country in the 1996 Atlanta Olympics; we may yet discover more Weenas for next year's SEA Games, if not the 2008 Beijing Olympics. The prospects are that bright, indeed.

"But don't worry, partner," said Richie Garcia. "The list is not final. Badminton is presently not in the list but everything is still tentative at this stage."

That was reassuring enough.

But why remove it now and then restore it later?

"Part of our bargaining leverage against our Asian neighbors," he said. "Some countries are shoo-ins to battle for the gold in badminton and definitely, we are not among them. We could put in other disciplines where we are strong in exchange for badminton, it being the prime choice of some countries strong in that sport."

So there. Bargaining. Horse trading.

It has been the ugly practice in previous SEA Games competitions that the host country can insert disciplines where it has the strongest chance to win gold medals. Richie is not saying we will do that, too. But if I get the drift, we might also do it, albeit, subtly. Finesse should be the name of the game.

In the last SEA Games in Vietnam, fin swimming has been the silent target of criticism among participating countries. It was a sport that gave Vietnam, the overall runaway champion, a gold mine.

"We want to avoid a repetition of that and other practices in the past of other hosts," said Richie Garcia. "In fact, we can also produce our own gold mine."

He cited basketball.

"Basketball is our number one sport," said Richie. "As host, we can do so much as to stake more gold medals in basketball than the standard quota. Like, we can introduce the three-point shot contest, the three-versus-three format, or even the *dalawahan*. *Malalakas tayo diyan*. No one can stop us from introducing innovations just so we could stake more gold medals in basketball that we could probably win to increase our gold medal collection. But no, we intend not to do that. We will now aim to put up a SEA Games edition that will not bastardize the spirit of the competitions."

Good job, Richie. Here's to your commendable move to maintain the true Olympic spirit of sportsmanship.

But now that badminton isn't really out of the roster, I also hope that cycling—yes, cycling, the sport of my youth—will also not lose its berth in the 2005 Manila SEA Games calendar.

But what's this report I got the other day that boxing also almost lost its footing in the initial deliberations?

You kill boxing in next year's SEA Games in Manila, you might as well kill basketball, too. And cycling. Put in *patintero*, *balubalan* and *tumbang preso* instead.

Short cut to the overall championship.

Buena Vista Adventure race slated in 2 towns

By Trina Ibarle

OUTDOOR enthusiasts get a chance to showcase their competitive skills in the Buena Vista Nature Park Adventure Race set on March 6 at the Tagaytay-Talisay area in Batangas.

Participants from different sports and disciplines are expected in the first ever event organized by the Metro Adventure Racing Club (MARC) and hosted by the Buena Vista Nature Park and Country Club.

The new sport of adventure racing, said to be "the future of all adventure sports," evolved from endurance disciplines such as the triathlon and duathlon and entails a combination of skills of strength such as running, swimming, mountain biking, trekking, kayaking, and boat paddling.

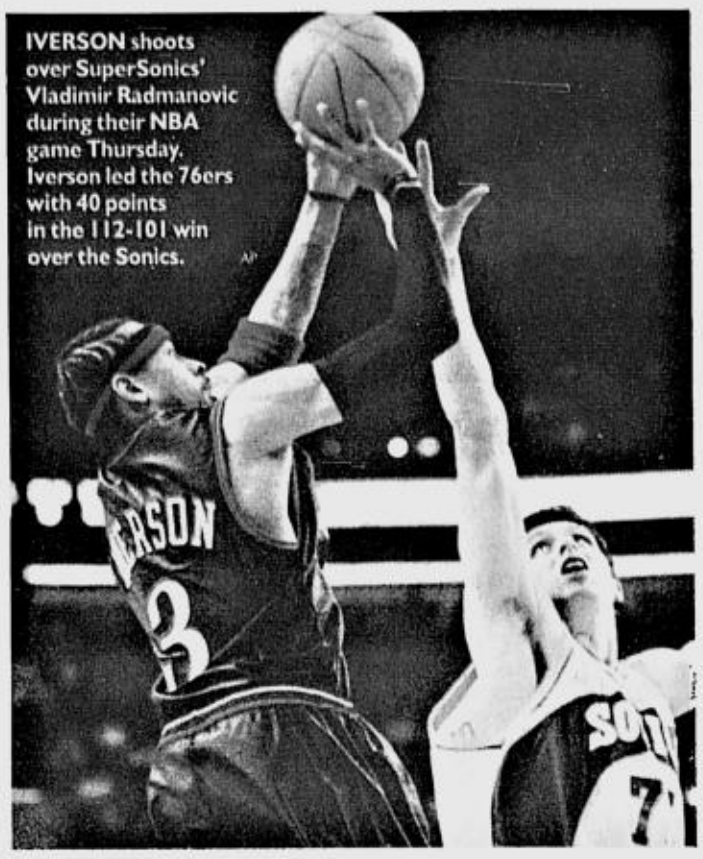
"Adventure racing is a multi-skill discipline that tests individual strengths, but team dynamics also play a big role in winning," said tournament organizer Mon Marchan.

There are plans to hold the race yearly because of the high level of interest it has generated, he added.

Teams of three to five members may join in the Junior/Beginner (18-20 years old), Corporate/Executive/Master (at least 35 years old), Celebrity/Media and the Open Class divisions.

At least two members who are qualified in a particular age group or profession should be part of the formed teams, and all teams should have at least one female member.

MARC is also holding training clinics prior to the race on Feb. 22 and 29. For more details about the race and the clinics, interested parties may call 817-1621 or get more race information and download registration forms through the organizers' website at www.adventure.com.ph.


IVERSON shoots over SuperSonics' Vladimir Radmanovic during their NBA game Thursday. Iverson led the 76ers with 40 points in the 112-101 win over the Sonics. AP

WEST LEADERS

Wolves devour Kings

MINNEAPOLIS, Minnesota—Kevin Garnett collected 22 points and 24 rebounds as the Minnesota Timberwolves welcomed back Wally Szczerbiak and beat Sacramento, 92-75, Thursday, to move into a virtual tie for the best record in the National Basketball Association.

GARNETT

Last year's Most Valuable Player runner-up to Tim Duncan and again among the leading candidates, Garnett posted his 16th straight double-double and sixth 20-20 game of the season.

The NBA's rebounding leader gave Minnesota an overwhelming 60-34 advantage on the glass.

"I just wanted to come out aggressive," Garnett said. "When you're in the flow, it can be a defensive flow, an offensive flow, or it can be a rebounding flow. I was in a flow that I saw every rebound and where it was going, and just wanted it and went and got it." Garnett's presence in the paint also rattled the Kings, who lead the NBA in scoring and shooting. They missed a half-dozen layups and all eight 3-pointers in the first half, falling into a 43-34 hole.

Szczerbiak, a sweet-shooting swingman, missed the first 53 games of the season with a strained plantar fascia tendon in his left foot. He came off the bench in the second quarter and had a pair of buckets.

Szczerbiak also had a layup with 7:21 left that gave Minnesota a 74-68 lead and began a decisive 11-2 run. Amid chants of "MVP," Garnett capped the surge by finding Sam Cassell for a 3-pointer, making a short bank shot and sinking two freethrows for an 83-70 bulge with 4:18 to go.

Cassell scored 18 points for the Timberwolves (39-15), who moved within percentage points of the Kings (38-14) for the league's best record and home-court advantage throughout the playoffs.

All-Star Peja Stojakovic scored 15 points for the Kings, who shot under 34 percent (30-of-89) and were held to their lowest total of the season. They had a four-game winning streak snapped. *AFP*

Complete results:

Minnesota 92, Sacramento 75; Philadelphia 112, Seattle 101; LA Clippers 102, Boston 100

Sprain sidelines Carter

TORONTO—Toronto Raptors star Vince Carter will be sidelined up to a month after suffering a sprained left ankle, officials of the National Basketball Association team said here Thursday.

Carter scored 22 points in 30 minutes against reigning NBA champion San Antonio but left the game with the injury with 7:46 remaining in the fourth quarter. The Spurs rallied to beat the Raptors, 86-82.

Carter joins Chris Bosh and Jalen Rose on the sidelined list for the Raptors, who are 25-28 and seventh in the Eastern Conference, three games ahead of Boston and Miami. *AFP*

Artest out after surgery

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana—Indiana Pacers All-Star forward Ron Artest has a torn left thumb ligament and will be sidelined indefinitely after surgery, the National Basketball Association club announced here Thursday. Artest, 24, averages 18.0 points and 5.3 rebounds this season for the Pacers, whose 39-15 record is the best in the East. *AFP*

2ND IN 10 DAYS

Wallace traded to Pistons

AUBURN HILLS, Michigan—Rasheed Wallace was traded for the second time in 10 days, this time joining Detroit as the centerpiece of a three-team deal at the National Basketball Association trading deadline.

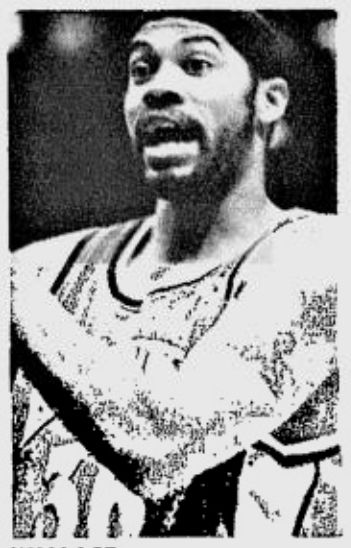
Wallace, whose lack of emotional control led to numerous technical fouls, was sent last week from Portland to Atlanta, where he played one game before being sent to the Pistons, a top Eastern Conference contender.

Wallace, making $17 million this season in the last year of a six-season deal worth $80 million dollars, will join Detroit along with Boston guard Mike James, Pistons basketball operations president Joe Dumars said.

Detroit sent guards Chucky Atkins and Lindsey Hunter to Boston while Atlanta will receive Pistons guard Bobby Sura and Serbian center Zeljko Rebraca plus Boston forward Chris Mills.

The Celtics will also receive Detroit's first-round selection in this year's NBA Draft and money while Atlanta receives a 2004 first-round draft pick that originated in Milwaukee but has gone through four different NBA clubs.

But one of the deadline day's big mysteries was the final fate of Wallace, 29, who joins standout rebounder Ben Wallace on the Pistons' frontline. *AFP*


WALLACE

Dream Team faces toughest training ever

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colorado—trying to avoid having the "Dream Team" face its worst nightmare, the United States Olympic squad of National Basketball Association stars will face its toughest pre-Games training ever.

Six pre-Olympic exhibition games will feature stops in Germany, Turkey and Serbia and Montenegro on the US pre-Olympic programme announced here Thursday.

US pre-Olympic workouts start July 26 at the University of North Florida in Jacksonville and continue through a July 31 exhibition game there against Olympic-bound Puerto Rico.

NBA stars will then fly to Cologne, Germany, for a three-nation round-robin tournament

BRYANT

featuring Germany and Italy, who meet August 1. The US team plays Italy on August 3 and Germany the following night.

The Americans then travel to Belgrade for a matchup against reigning world champions Serbia and Montenegro on August 6 at the new Belgrade Arena scheduled to be completed in July.

The NBA road show swings into Istanbul August 7-12 for final Olympic plans, including exhibitions August 8 against Turkey and August 10 against an opponent to be determined.

The Athens Olympics begin August 13 with men's basketball opening two days later and running through August 28, the penultimate day of the Games.

Three-time defending champion United States was tested by Lithuania twice and France in the final at the 2000 Sydney Olympics before winning, and the number of international NBA players have risen sharply in the past four years.

A lesser NBA lineup was a woeful seventh at the 2002 World Championships in Indianapolis but this year's squad will feature the best available NBA talent.

In preliminary round play, the US men will be paired with Angola, Australia, Greece, Lithuania and Puerto Rico in Group B while Group A includes Argentina, China, Italy, New Zealand, Spain and Serbia and Montenegro.

Already named to the US roster are Kobe Bryant, Jason Kidd, Karl Malone, Tim Duncan, Tracy McGrady, Allen Iverson, Mike Bibby, Ray Allen and Jermaine O'Neal with three spots vacant.

Vince Carter and Shaquille O'Neal are among the candidates to complete the US lineup, which will be coached by Detroit coach Larry Brown. *AFP*

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ADVT

Southwoods ladies ahead

BAGUIO CITY—Manila Southwoods posted a three-day aggregate of 390 points to lead Riviera Golf and Country Club by two points in the fight for top honors in the premiere Sunflower flight in the Fil Division of the Fil-Am Ladies Golf Tournament here.

Manila Southwoods skipper Tracy Locsin fired 45 points at the par 61 Baguio Country Club course to also pace the individual race with a 129 total, 21 ahead of Cha Diciano of host Camp John Hay.

Locsin's teammates, Marily Ty (30), Heidi Schetkayy and Glenda da Roza, who scored 28 points each, completed Southwoods' 133 output yesterday.

Riviera scored 135 points through Nathalie Yu's 39, Beth Menchaves' 33, Rossie Guerrero's 32 and Josie Amon's 31.

Leonor Corpuz and Anne Philipps each shot 36 points as Camp John Hay scored 142 and boosted its total to 419 in the Chrysanthemum flight.

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7

Ali 1	KUYA
Ali 2	MILAN
Ali 3	RUNAWAY JURY
Ali 4	COLD MOUNTAIN
Ali 5	HAUNTED MANSION
Ali 6	HAUNTED OFFICE
Ali 7	CHASING LIBERTY

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2 COLD MOUNTAIN
11:00, 2:00, 5:00
8:00, 11:00
R-18

3 RUNAWAY JURY
11:30, 2:20, 5:10
8:00, 10:50
R-13

4 HAUNTED MANSION
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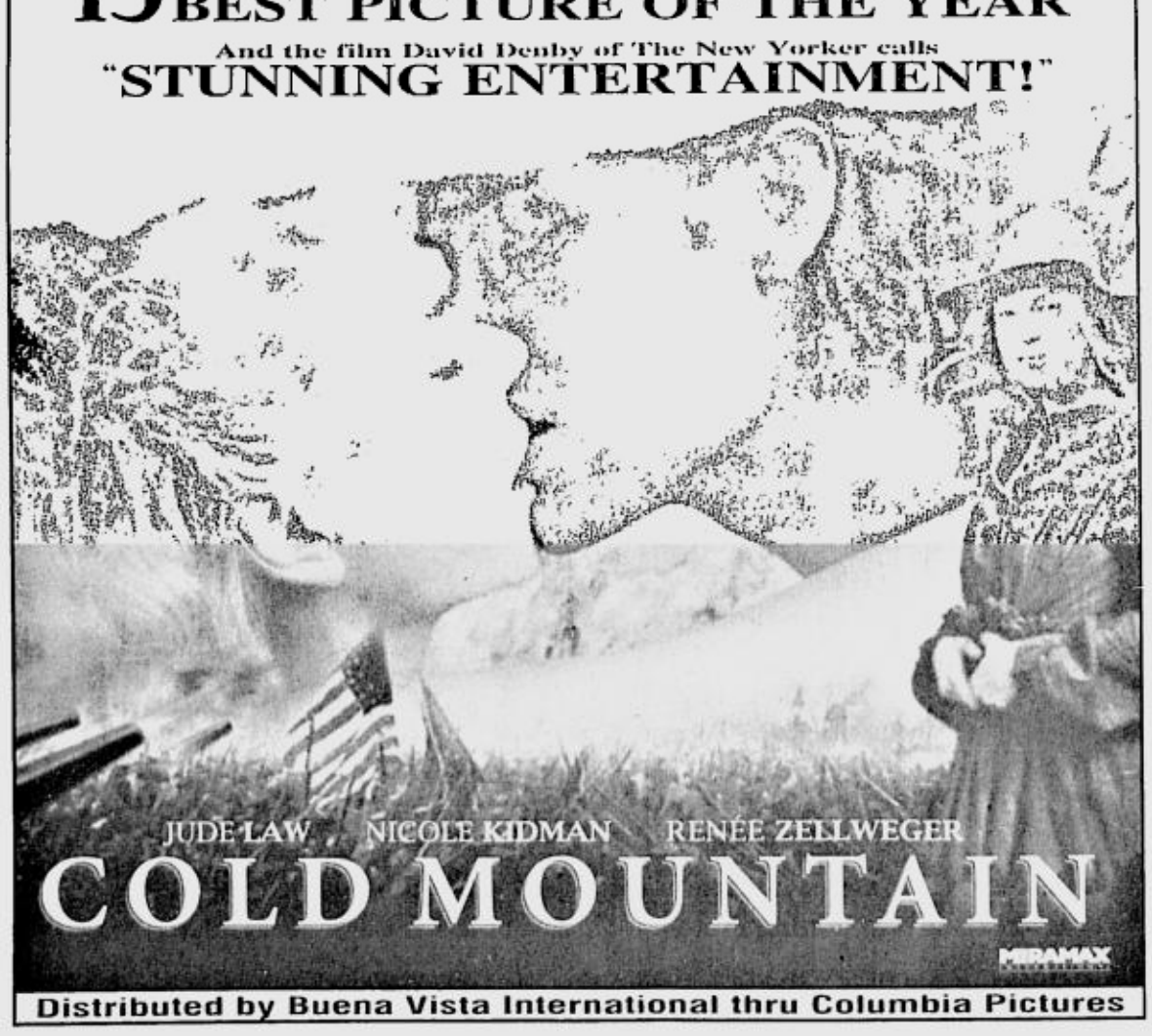

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3 COLD MOUNTAIN 10:20, 1:15, 4:10, 7:05, 10:00 DTS
4 TOTALLY BLONDE 12:05, 2:15, 4:25, 6:35, 9:00
5 CRUNAWAY JURY 10:10, 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00
6 CHASING LIBERTY 10:20, 12:30, 2:40, 4:50 SDDS
7 BONE SNATCHER 12:30, 2:35, 4:50, 6:55, 9:00
8 21 GRAMS 11:45, 2:00, 4:15, 6:40, 9:00
9 KUYA 10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
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2 MILAN 11:10, 1:50, 4:30, 7:10, 9:50
3 KUYA 10:10, 12:25, 2:40, 4:55, 7:10, 9:40
4 WISHING STAIRS 10:10, 12:05, 2:00, 3:55, 5:50, 7:45, 9:50
5 RUNAWAY JURY 11:50, 2:30, 5:10, 7:50, 10:00
6 HAUNTED MANSION 10:10, 12:05, 2:00, 3:55, 5:50, 7:45, 9:50 SDDS
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2 COLD MOUNTAIN 11:10, 2:25, 5:40, 9:00 SDDS
3 KUYA 11:20, 1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 9:00
4 CHASING LIBERTY 11:20, 1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 9:00
5 RUNAWAY JURY 10:20, 12:30, 3:20, 6:10, 9:00
6 MASTER AND COMMANDER/ MYSTIC RIVER 11:30, 2:10, 4:15, 6:55, 9:00
7 MILAN 10:15, 12:55, 3:35, 6:15, 9:00 SDDS
8 WISHING STAIRS 11:00, 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00

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1 HAUNTED MANSION 11:00, 12:50, 2:45, 4:40, 6:35, 8:30
2 CHASING LIBERTY 11:00, 1:25, 3:50, 6:15, 8:40
3 KUYA 10:35, 11:50, 2:05, 4:20, 6:35, 8:50
4 WISHING STAIRS 10:40, 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:10
5 MILAN 10:30, 12:35, 3:20, 6:05, 8:50
6 RUNAWAY JURY 10:10, 12:10, 2:50, 5:30, 8:30
7 COLD MOUNTAIN 10:10, 11:40, 2:30, 5:20, 8:30
8 MASTER COMMANDER / MYSTIC RIVER 11:45, 2:40, 5:20, 8:30

Citisquare MALABON 288-0985/2575
1 HAUNTED MANSION
2 MILAN
3 KUYA
4 COLD MOUNTAIN

big Supercenter CAINTA 240-4661
1 HAUNTED MANSION
2 MILAN
3 KUYA
4 COLD MOUNTAIN

Big R Supercenter STA. ROSA Laguna (049)837-0907
1 MILAN
2 WISHING STAIRS
3 KUYA
4 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
5 COLD MOUNTAIN

Big R Supercenter LIPA 757-3664 / 312-5870
1 MILAN
2 THE TWINS EFFECT
3 HAUNTED OFFICE
4 CHASING LIBERTY
5 MONA LISA SMILE

Big R Supercenter DASMARIÑAS 852-2125
1 KUYA
2 MILAN
3 CHASING LIBERTY
4 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
5 THE HAUNTED MANSION

Big R Supercenter STARMILLS En Fernando Partuere 875-1927 / 961-5270
1 A TALE OF TWO SISTERS
2 WISHING STAIRS
3 MILAN
4 KUYA
5 HAUNTED MANSION
6 COLD MOUNTAIN

IMUS 471-8188 / 875-5858
1 HAUNTED MANSION
2 CHASING LIBERTY
3 KUYA
4 COLD MOUNTAIN DTS
5 MILAN
6 WISHING STAIRS

BACOLOD 441-0458/59
1 MILAN
2 MONA LISA SMILE
3 A TALE OF TWO SISTERS
4 DIABLO
5 UNDER THE TUSCAN SUN
6 HAUNTED OFFICE

ILOILO 336-8070/78
1 MONA LISA SMILE
2 KUYA
3 MILAN
4 A TALE OF TWO SISTERS
5 DIABLO
6 THE GATHERING

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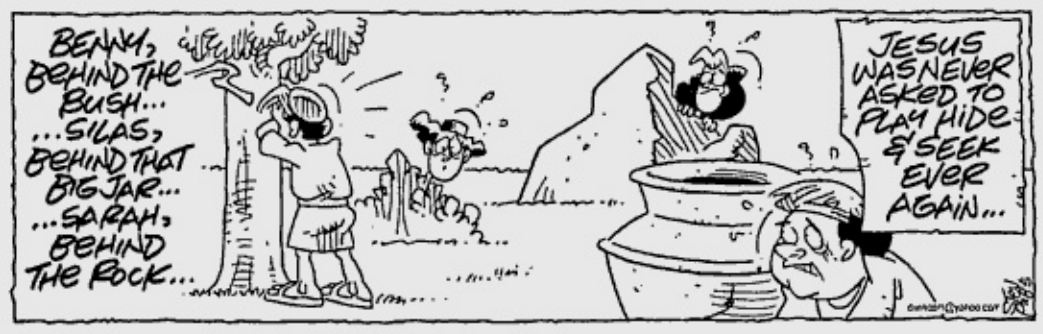


HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're passionate and emotionally deep. You are also philosophical. You want to understand yourself. You prefer to pursue this search with someone else, because close relationships are important to you. You constantly want to learn, explore and probe your surroundings. Focus on partnerships and your closest relationships this year.
Birthdate of: Jennifer Love Hewitt, actress; Tyne Daly, actress; Andres Segovia, guitarist.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You feel restless for no reason at all. In fact, you're feeling kind of nervous and jumpy. It's a passing thing. Don't let it get to you. Focus your attention on something interesting.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): A friend might surprise you with a funny stunt or an unbelievable statement today. At the least, you'll be caught off-guard. Just go with the flow.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Surprise conversations with bosses and parents could blow you out of the water temporarily. You just didn't see it coming. (Keep your cool.)

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Something about your daily existence gets to you today. You want to be anywhere else but here. Actually, you just want some adventure in your life.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Someone might think you are acting rashly today. You're not happy with how something is being shared or divided. It's probably wise to count to 10 before you say anything.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Conversations will surprise you today. No matter what you do, things don't turn out the way you expect. There is an element of rebellion and independence in the air.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Be patient with people at work today. You might feel restricted or hemmed in by rules. In turn, this could tempt you to say something rash that you might regret later. Don't do it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Today is full of electric, exciting energy. Anything different could happen. Unexpected flirtations might even shock you. But at least you aren't bored. (That's for sure.)

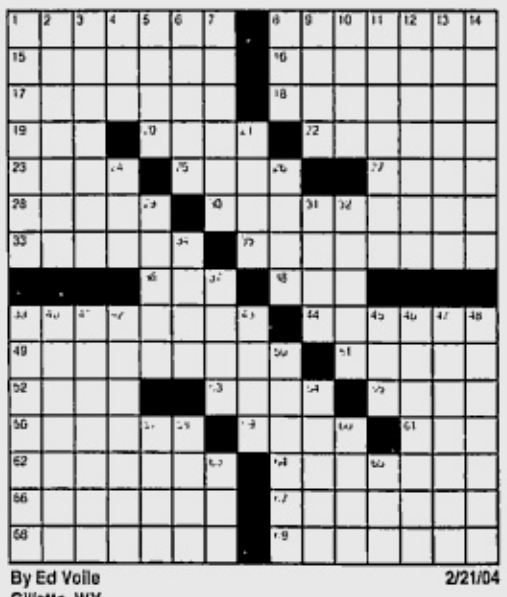
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Be patient with family members. Some people feel irritated and nervous today. That's because nothing is actually turning out as planned.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Be careful, because today is a mildly accident-prone day. This is because you might feel jittery, nervous or excited. These qualities distract you from whatever you're doing.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Watch out for spontaneous purchases and impulse buying today. You could get lucky, or you might regret how you spend your money. It's a tricky day.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You definitely want to strike out against restrictions that you feel you can no longer bear. However, you might jump out of the frying pan and into the fire! Think before you act or speak.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Ed Volle
Gillette, WY
2/21/04

ACROSS
1 Elfin beings
8 Green beryl
15 In an intoxicating manner
16 Convict on a tether
17 Chants
18 Pamper
19 College cheer
20 Play parts
22 Parodied
23 Nautical speed
25 Hamilton bills
27 FDR coin
28 Brilliance
30 Lexington and Concord militia
33 Radio station employee
35 Indefatigable
36 Part of mph
38 Sidekick
39 Liquid appetizer
44 British insurance syndicate
49 Northern constellation, Coma __
51 Broom stroke
52 Lacoste of tennis
53 Lyrical poems
55 Last word in a threat
56 Retaliate on another's behalf
59 Stitched together
61 Fastening device
62 Upset
64 Indigents
66 Getty or Parsons
67 Blight victim
68 Hone
69 Corruptor

DOWN
1 Avoided, as duty
2 Act of devotion
3 Lousy living quarters
4 Altar vow
5 Turner of tunes
6 Vote in
7 Method
8 Cure starter?
9 Provides the crew for
10 "Das Lied von der __"
11 Semicircular panel
12 Best so far
13 Peas and beans
14 Becomes more profound
21 Annoying fit
24 __ Mahal
26 Clipped-off piece
29 Short putt
31 River to the Caspian Sea
32 Narrates
34 Abominable snowman
37 Puerto __
39 Chafes
40 Irritable
41 A Snoop Sister
42 Go in again
43 G-men
45 Part of IOU
46 Sharp barkers
47 Film featuring Brando as Napoleon
48 Writer of "The Faerie Queene"
50 Oozed
54 Marshy lowland
57 Swallow quickly
58 __ Stanley Gardner
60 Insensible
63 Franklin or Affleck
65 School support grp.

Friday's Puzzle Solved

A	S	A	S		P	E	S	O		T	A	B	L	E
M	U	S	T		A	R	A	B		I	B	E	A	M
A	N	O	A		Y	A	L	E		C	L	A	W	S
H	U	N	G	E	R	S	T	R	I	K	E			
S	P	E	E	D	O			O	T	O		O	H	S
			S	U	L	T	A	N	O	F	S	W	A	T
T	E	L		C	L	O	T			F	A	L	S	E
O	X	E	N		S	E	T	T	O		M	E	T	A
S	P	O	O	K			A	U	R	A		T	F	D
C	O	N	V	E	Y	O	R	B	E	L	T			
A	S	S		E	A	U		M	I	A	S	M	A	
			K	N	O	C	K	O	U	T	B	L	O	W
B	R	I	N	E		H	O	L	T		L	A	N	A
R	A	T	E	S		E	L	E	A		E	V	E	R
O	N	S	E	T		S	A	S	H		T	E	T	E

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2/21/04

BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

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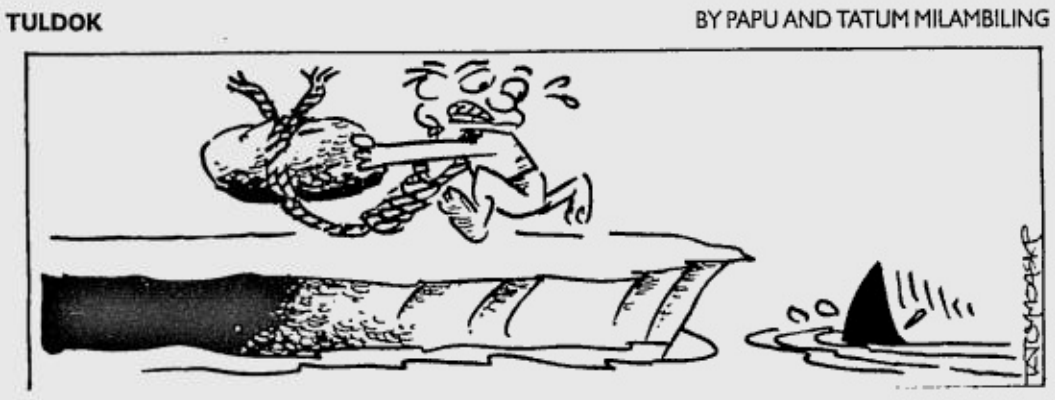
LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING



NISSAN OPEN

Maruyama shares lead

MARUYAMA watches his drive on the third hole. AP

LOS ANGELES—For Japan's Shigeki Maruyama playing in the Nissan Open is a homecoming of sorts.

The 34-year-old Maruyama lives in the nearby suburb of Westwood and is a member of the Riviera Country Club, the site of this week's PGA event.

"I usually play this course because I live 15 minutes away," said Maruyama, who shot a seven-under 64 on Thursday to grab a share of the lead in the first round of the $4.8 million Nissan Open. "I don't usually play well here, but since last week I have been playing very well."

Nicknamed the 'Smiling Assassin,' Maruyama moved to Westwood four years ago. The Chiba native says his neighbourhood is popular with Japanese expatriates.

He is also in the thick of the race for the $864,000 top prize after registering his best round of 2004 while playing in the same group on Thursday as co-leader Shaun Micheel of the US.

American Hank Kuehne shot 65 and is alone in third. Defending champion Mike Weir, Kirk Triplett, Scott McCarron, Fred Couples and Robert Allenby of Australia are two shots back after carding 66s.

Russ Cochran was three shots behind the clubhouse leaders with two holes to play.

He was one of 10 players on the course when play was suspended because of darkness. They will finish their opening rounds Friday morning.

Maruyama had a three-straight birdie finish as he is trying to win his fourth career US PGA event. He needed just 27 putts and hit 12 of 14 fairways.

He finished in a six-way tie for fourth at the Buick Invitational in San Diego last week, just one stroke behind winner John Daly.

He says being a member at Riviera gives him a bit of an edge.

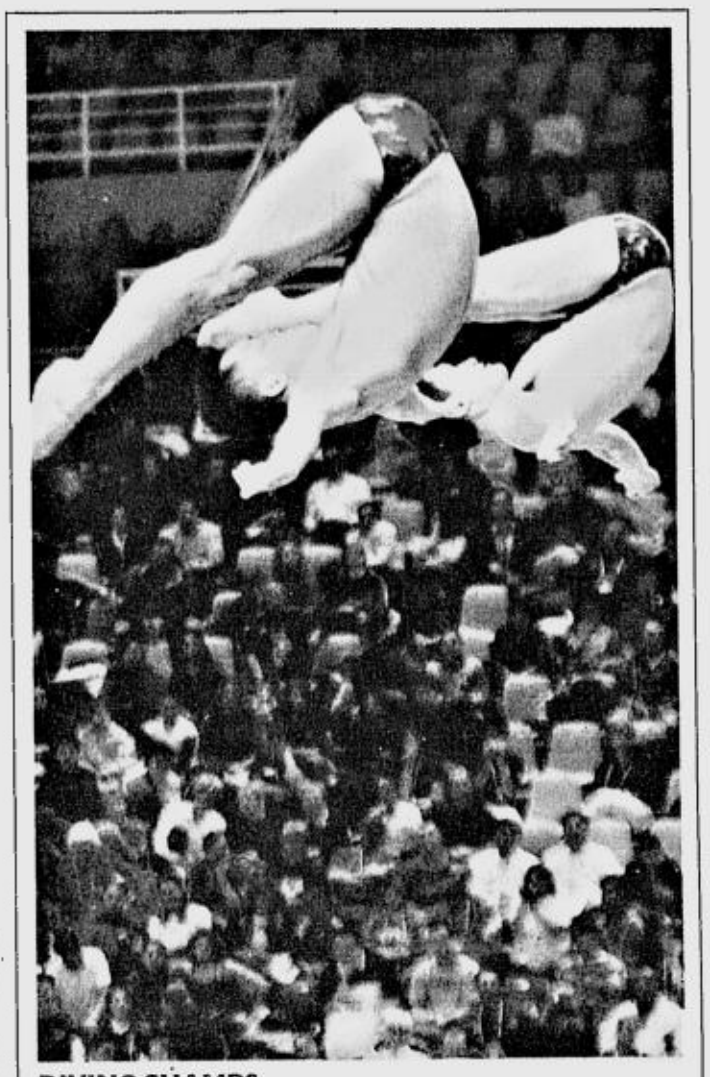
Tiger Woods, playing in just his third tournament this year, opened with a one-over 72 and is tied for 80th.

The Riviera tournament is the only event Woods has played at least five times without winning. Woods took 32 putts and hit 13 of 18 fairways on Thursday. *AFP*

Furyk to miss World Golf tourney

LOS ANGELES—US Open champion Jim Furyk will miss next week's World Golf Championships Match-Play event because of torn cartilage in his left wrist.

The injury bothered Furyk late last season and he has skipped the past month of the US PGA tour resting. *AFP*



DIVING CHAMPS
China's Bo Peng and Kenan Wang dive in the final of the 3m Synchronized Springboard during the 14th Diving World Cup in Athens, Feb. 19. China won the gold medal. AFP

Federer clobbers Pavel, gains semis

ROTTERDAM, The Netherlands—Rampaging world No. 1 Roger Federer raced to a personal career record Thursday at the 842,000-euro Rotterdam World Tennis event, crushing his personal Romanian punching bag Andrei Pavel for the fifth time in six meetings.

The reigning champion at two Grand Slams, Federer notched his 16th straight victory in ATP and Davis Cup events with a 7-6 (7/2), 7-5 victory in the quarterfinals.

The Swiss player's domination of world No. 52 Pavel stands an impressive 5-1, with only one set lost in the pair's last five meetings.

The victory in one hour, 36 minutes puts top seed Federer into a Friday showdown against a danger-man who could easily spoil this week's party for the top seed.

Fifth-seeded Tim Henman booked his spot in the last eight through a 6-2, 6-4 rout of Czech qualifier Tomas Cakl, building upon a solid indoor run which began for the Briton when he won the title at the Paris Bercy Masters.

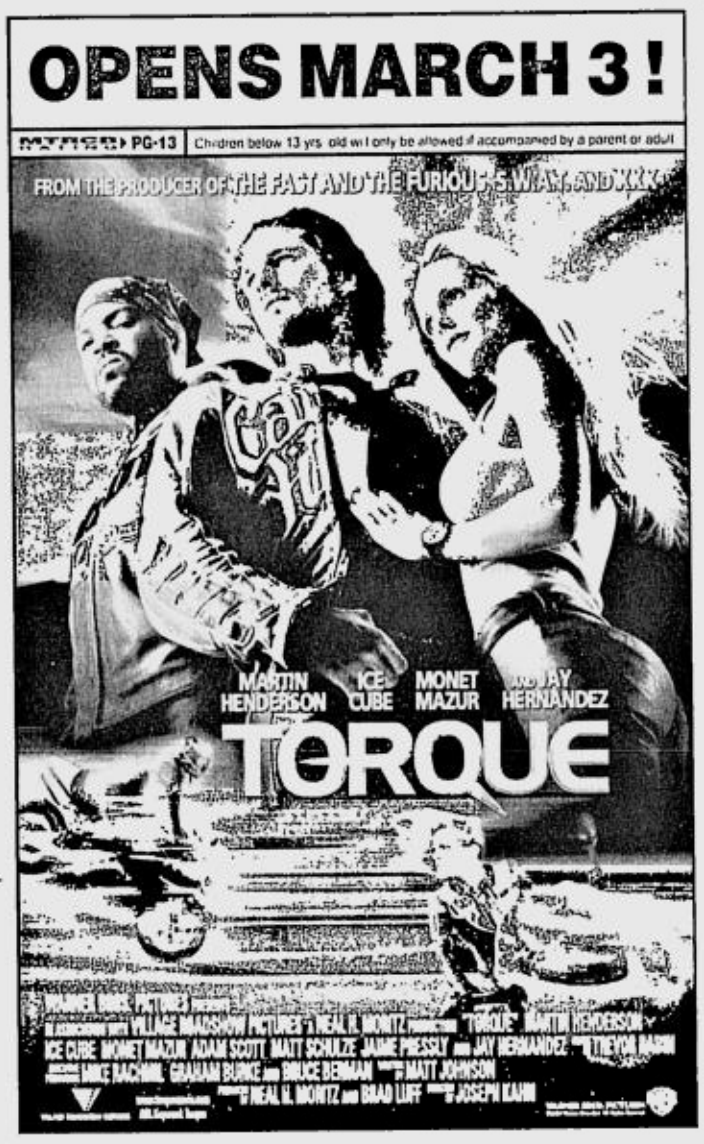
Henman has pleasant memories of the Ahoy stadium, scene of his comeback from 2002 shoulder surgery a year ago. He played the last of his hat-trick of finals here in 2002. *AFP*

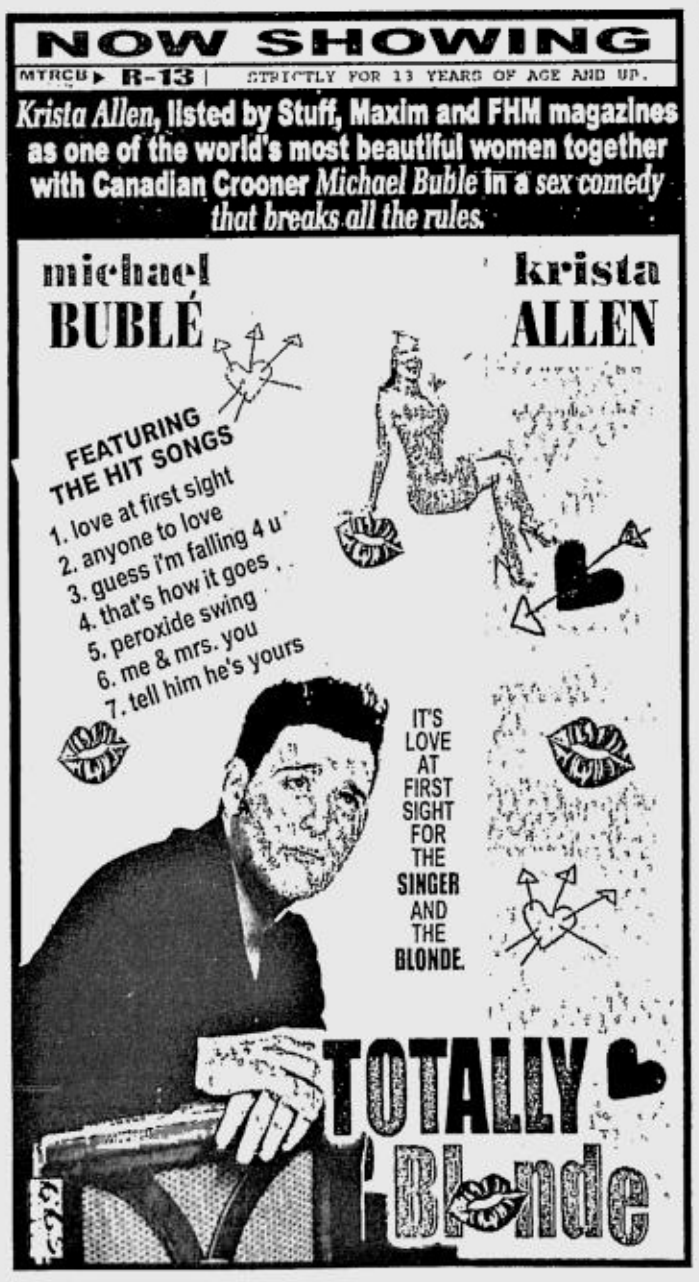
Ferreira, Blake bow out

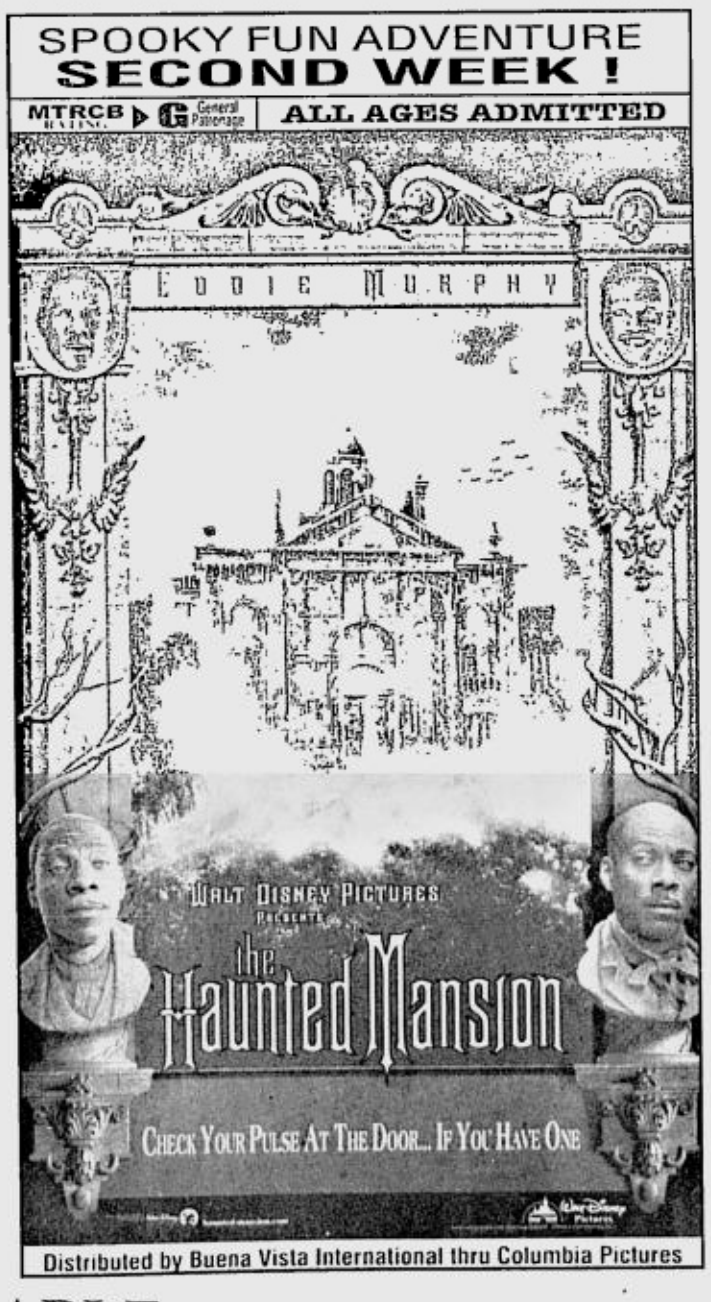
MEMPHIS, Tennessee—South African seventh seed Wayne Ferreira and American sixth seed James Blake were ousted in straight sets here on Thursday in the second round of the 880,000-dollar ATP and WTA St. Jude Championships.

Russia's Dmitry Tursunov reached the quarterfinals by defeating Ferreira, 6-4, 6-0, while Sweden's Joachim Johansson eliminated Blake, 6-3, 6-3.

Second seed Mardy Fish rallied to deny Canadian Frederic Niemeyer's upset bid, the American winning 1-6, 6-3, 7-5. *AFP*







BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Games tickets for free

ATHENS—Athens Olympics organizers said free tickets for the Games' opening and closing ceremonies will be offered in a bid to spark tourists' lukewarm interest in the Games.

Tourists who wish to escape busy hotels and sign up to a rentals programme for around 3,000 private homes in Athens, will be put into a lottery for around a dozen tickets for the two ceremonies, the programmes' managers said Thursday.

"At the moment, around 600 tickets have been put aside (to be put into the lottery)," an ATHOC source told AFP.

The draw is designed to breathe new life into tourists' general lack of interest towards the Olympics.

Just 300 private homes have been booked so far and the target for homes to be rented during the Games has been cut from 5,000 to 3,0000. *AFP*

Golota returns

MIAMI—Heavyweight fighter Andrew Golota, whose low blows have been a trademark in past major bouts, signed a contract with promoter Don King and hopes to make a boxing championship comeback at age 36.

"I've made some mistakes but I've decided to concentrate all my efforts on a single objective—winning the world heavyweight championship," Golota said.

The Polish pugilist, nicknamed the "Foul Pole" for his history of low blows, was a 1997 first-round knockout victim of Britain's Lennox Lewis in a title bout, the shortest fight of the final 13 years of retired legend Lewis' career. *AFP*

Dog show tomorrow

IN A FITTING follow-up to the highly successful Fun Match last November, the Central Luzon German Shepherd Dog Association (CLGSDA) and Pedigree will hold a Landesgruppen Dog Show tomorrow at the San Fernando Exit (in front of Premier Cars) in San Fernando City, Pampanga. The event, which is being held in cooperation with the Philippine Canine Club, Inc. (PCCI) and the German Shepherd Dog Federation (GSDF), is expected to attract more than 100 GSD owners and breeders from all over the country. "We are leaving no stone unturned to ensure the success of the event, which is our first major activity this year," said CLGSDA president Gavin Chong. German Shepherd Dog Weekly Magazine general editor Yang Hsieng Lin of Taiwan will be the judge for the event.

Hawks make national finals; Admirals rule elims

By Trina Ibarle

UNIVERSITY of Manila stunned Letran College yesterday, 75-61, in the Metro Manila eliminations of the National Students Basketball Championships to catch the last trip to the inter-collegiate finals in Lucena City.

The Hawks joined eliminations topnotcher Philippine Maritime Institute and second placer University of Perpetual Help-Rizal in the National Championships set March 1-7 in Lucena, Quezon.

PMI leaned on the heroics of veterans Larry Rodriguez and Niño Marquez to beat UPH-R, 76-70, in yesterday's final.

Marquez fired 22 points, while Rodriguez added 17 as they powered the Admirals to their first ever stint in the national finals.

The Admirals and the Altas claimed the first two slots when they bested the Hawks and the Knights in the semifinals on Wednesday.

Ronnie Matias topscored for the Hawks with 22 points, scoring 14 points in the first half which they took, 38-26.

The Knights, last season's champions in the National Collegiate Athletic Association, failed to halt the fiery UM attack as they never led throughout the game.

"We did not have any problem with our defense. However, our offense suffered badly," said Letran head coach Louie Alas.

The loss was a big blow to the Knights, who were undergoing rigorous preparation for their entry into the Philippine Basketball League under the banner of Toyota Otis-Letran.

"We do not deserve to play in the PBL if we play this way," Alas told his wards.

UM coach Loreto Tolentino, on the other hand, said he was very happy with the victory as it came at the expense of the NCAA champs.

Adamson captured the women's crown via an overtime 64-62 victory over Ateneo de Manila.

Philippine College of Criminology outclassed De La Salle-Zobel, 106-95, in the juniors' final.

Jeffrey Khalili delivered 35 points for PCCr, while Jhay Marte and Dick Perez scored 21 and 20 points, respectively.

MAPAPASIGAW KA SA SINDAK SA PEBRERO 25
KALAGIMLAGIM NA BANGUNGOT....
'WAG KANG PIPIKIT BAKA IKAW NA ANG SUSUNOD.
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WATER DEMON
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WINNER Best Director Best Actor 2003 New York Film Critics Circle
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Bill Murray
Lost In Translation

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Jodi Sta. Maria as Belle
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Feb. 21 - 11am, 3pm, 5pm, 7pm
Feb 22 - 11am, 3pm, 5pm
ST. ABANG TOWN CENTER
Feb 27 - 11am, 3pm, 6pm
Feb 28 - 11am, 3pm, 6pm
Feb 29 - 11am, 3pm, 6pm
AYALA CENTER CEBU
Mar. 5 - 4pm, 7:30pm
Mar. 6 - 11am, 3pm, 5pm, 7pm
Mar. 7 - 11:30am, 3pm, 6.30pm

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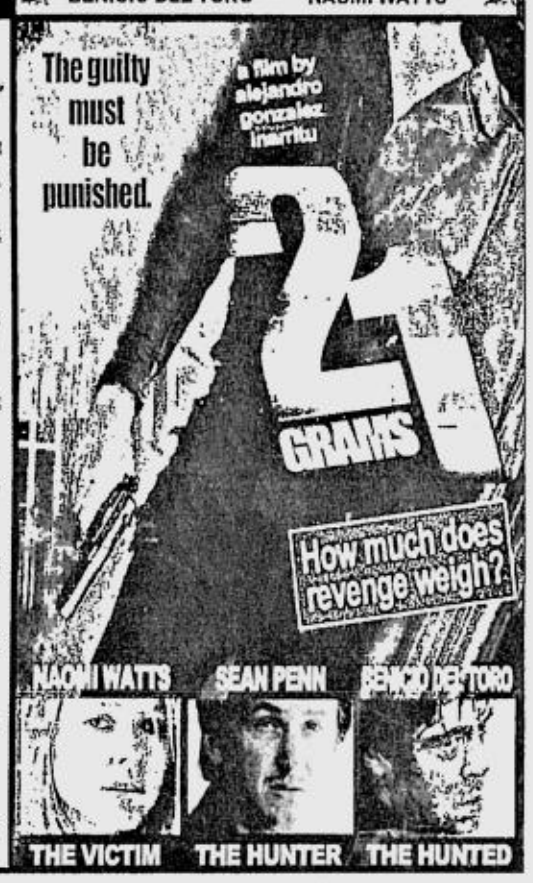

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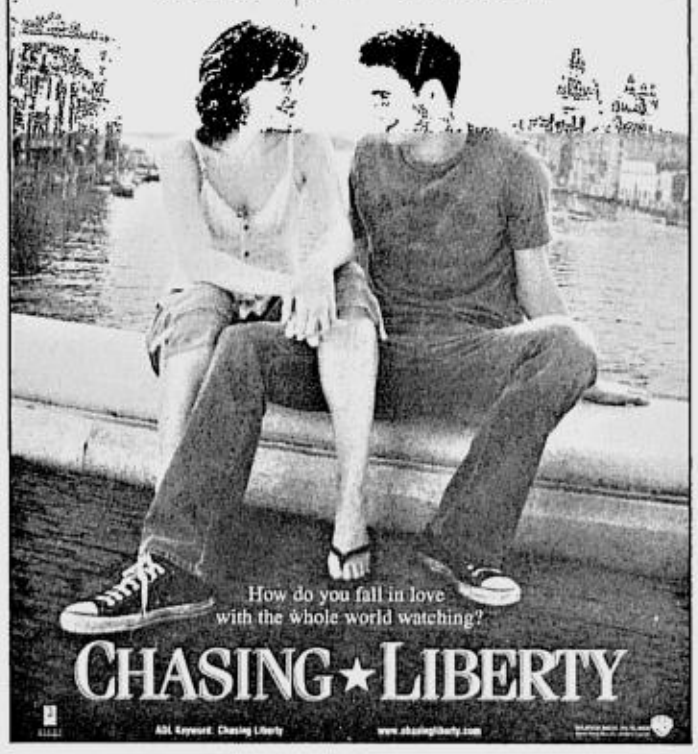

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CHASING LIBERTY PG13 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00	21 GRAMS R18 1:35, 4:15, 6:55, 9:35	RUNAWAY JURY R13 12:00, 2:35, 5:10, 7:45, 10:20

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MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	FRIDA / BAHID
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	MILAN
B	BURLESK KING
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	MILAN
CINEMA-2	LAST SAMURAI
CINEMA-3	WISHING STAIRS
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	MASTER AND COMMANDER (RI)
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	TALE OF TWO SISTERS
CINEMA-6	TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
CINEMA-7	MAGIC KITCHEN
CINEMA-8	GUSTO KO SA LALAKI (RI)
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	RUNAWAY JURY
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	HAUNTED MANSION
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	COLD MOUNTAIN
CINEMA-12	CHASING LIBERTY
CINEMA-14	KUYA
CINEMA-15	MILAN

LORES

CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN

(LAS PINAS)	MILAN
CINEMA-1	MONA LISA SMILE
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-4	CLOSED

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

RELAX, SEE A MOVIE!

OPENS FEBRUARY 25 AT AYALA CINEMAS

Nicholson & Keaton: 'Something' else

Academy Award winners Jack Nicholson and Diane Keaton star in a sparkling and sophisticated romantic comedy from acclaimed writer/director Nancy Meyers (What Women Want, Father of the Bride), which proves that in matters of the heart, sometimes you can teach an old playboy new tricks.

Harry Sanborn (Jack Nicholson) is a New York music mogul with a libido much younger than his years. He has the world on a string -- and a string of beautiful young girlfriends to prove it. During a romantic rendezvous with his newest girlfriend, Marin, at her mother's Hamptons beach house, Harry develops chest pains and eventually winds up being nursed by Marin's reluctant mother, Erica Barry (Diane Keaton) -- a successful divorced New York playwright. In the process, Harry develops more heart pangs -- the romantic kind -- for Erica, a woman who is finally right for him in every way.

However, some habits die hard, and when Harry hesitates to pursue Erica, his charming thirty-something doctor (Keanu Reeves) becomes smitten with her. Harry undergoes a true change of heart when he fights to win Erica back.

MTRCB Rating: Restricted 13 (R-13)

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From master storyteller Jim Sheridan ("My Left Foot," "In The Name of the Father") comes a deeply personal and emotionally raw tale of a family finding its soul. *IN AMERICA*. Through the wide-open eyes of two young heroines, Sheridan transforms a devastating human tragedy into a riveting, humor-tinged story about memory, secrets, love, loss, coming together and starting over.

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BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR Djimon Hounsou
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A RIDLEY SCOTT FILM
MATCHSTICK MEN

A Game of Swindling and Deception
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MTRCB RATING PG-13

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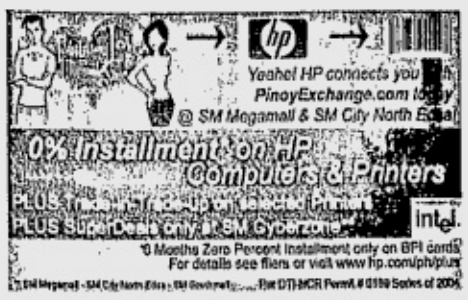
THE BONE SNATCHER

Solar FILMS INC. RELEASE

More movies on pages B5



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2004

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BI

BUSINESS

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Website: www.inq7money.net

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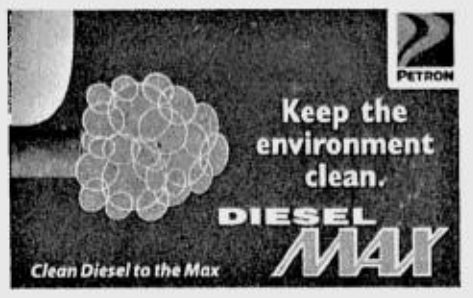
Assistant Editor **Corrie S. Narisma**



BSP survey shows RP firms still optimistic

By Doris C. Dumlao

LOCAL business sentiment remained generally optimistic for the first and second quarters of this year, but the political uncertainties and peso depreciation were starting to dampen outlook within the National Capital Region.

Based on the results of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' latest quarterly survey on business expectation, overall sentiment remained favorable as indicated by the positive diffusion indices (DI) which were respectively measured at 26 percent and 25.2 percent in the first and second quarters.

DI is computed as the percentage share of firms that answered in the affirmative less the share of those who replied in the negative. A positive DI thus indicates a favorable view.

The BSP yesterday announced that for the first quarter of 2004, the overall business outlook index increased to 26 percent from 24.9 percent in the fourth quarter of 2003. This was due to the substantial improvement in business sentiment in areas outside of the NCR.

But business outlook in the NCR slid to 15.1 percent from 24.6 percent during the same period.

Indices in the NCR showed mixed results, with most respondent firms anticipating difficulties in internal and external financing.

Metro Manila companies were also less bullish with only 20 percent indicating expansion plans in the second quarter compared to 42.4 percent among firms outside the NCR.

As such, the employment outlook index for NCR stood at a negative 7.2 percent corresponding to the low percentage of firms planning to expand their capacity. On the contrary, firms outside of the NCR indicated a positive employment index of 7 percent.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said the institution was encouraged by the fact that business expectation remained positive despite all the political noise that was driving the peso to historic lows against the US dollar.

"In a larger sense, this is a clear recognition of the generally healthy macroeconomic fundamentals of the country, such as the low and stable inflation rate, respectable growth outlook, reasonable interest rates and adequate international reserves," Buenaventura said.

To the extent that growth remained consumption-driven, the BSP chief said the business sector was correct in pinning positive expectations on the coming May elections to buoy business activity.

"As the survey results indicate, this would particularly be true in the areas outside the NCR where political campaigns are traditionally pursued in higher gear," he said.

Buenaventura said the BSP was also encouraged by the results that the estimated capacity utilization in the industry sector had moved up to 76.2 percent for the first quarter of 2004 from 71.3 percent in the previous quarter. This was likewise fueled by the expected increase in average capacity utilization outside of the NCR.

Confidence indicators of business performance such as volume of business activity and business conditions showed largely favorable trends in the first quarter. The confidence index was highest for the services sector at 25.1 percent, followed by the industry sector at 17.1 percent.

The outlook was bleakest in the construction sector, which showed a negative confidence index of 42.4 percent.

But the BSP chief said the institution would still need to be conscious of certain downside risks.

"These are expected to be faced by businessmen, including political uncertainty in the run-up to the elections, the usual competition coming from domestic and foreign competitors and the current volatility in the exchange rate," he said.

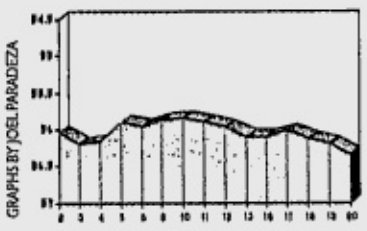
"It is a challenge for the authorities to ensure that risks to the business community coming from these factors are minimized, if not eliminated," he added.

The survey also noted that most firms were expecting an increase in prices and interest rates as well as a peso weakening, but this was consistent with the government economic team's own assumptions for this year.

BUENAVENTURA

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



GRAPHS BY JOEL PARADEZA

JANUARY FEBRUARY

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 56.35 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Feb. 20, 2004

¥ 107.91 = $1

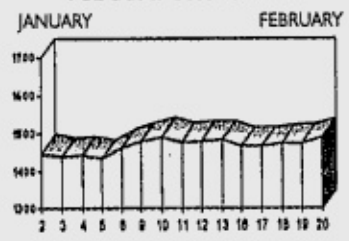
As of 5 p.m., Feb. 20, 2004

GOLD: $410.30-410.80

per ounce Hong Kong, Feb. 19, 2004

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



JANUARY FEBRUARY

(See stock market report on Page B5)

Stocks end up

STOCKS rose yesterday, led by strong gains in dominant phone firm PLDT after it reported record profits in 2003 and saw further growth in 2004 on the back of its strong mobile phone firms.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) rose 3.21 percent or P30 to P965. It accounted for 32 percent of total trade.

"It has impressive margins and innovative service. The future is bright for PLDT," said AB Capital economic analyst Jose Vistan.

The main index ended 1.01 percent or 14.88 points higher at 1,488.02 points. The market is up 3.16 percent so far this year.

Value turnover rose to P1.72 billion from Thursday's P1.13 billion. In the broader market, gainers narrowly beat losers 26 to 24 and there were 39 stocks unchanged.

Analysts said political concerns that helped drive the peso to a new record low against the dollar tempered market gains.

The peso early yesterday touched 56.35 a dollar, its lowest ever, slipping swiftly from the previous day's close at 56.20.

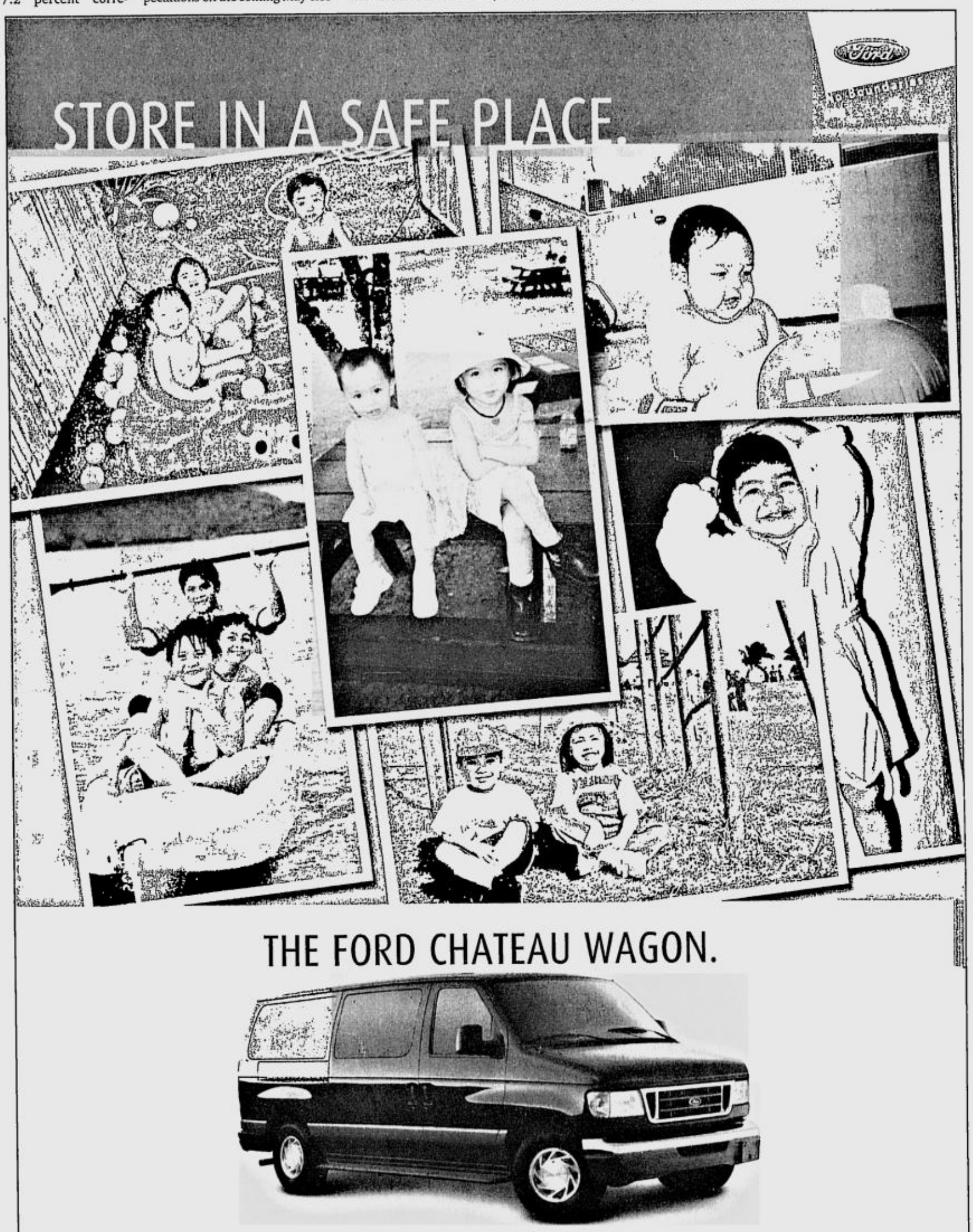
Traders said the fall was caused by a sudden bout of dollar demand from companies and mounting political uncertainty ahead of the May 10 national election.

The Supreme Court began hearing arguments on Thursday about petitions seeking presidential aspirant Fernando Poe Jr.'s disqualification on the grounds that he is not a natural-born Filipino. It could take days or weeks for the court to reach a decision. ***Reuters***

INTEREST RATES

February 20, 2004-MART1 Rates Benchmark Interest Rates	MART1 20-Feb-04	MART1 19-Feb-04
1 Month	6.9067	6.7107
3 Months	7.1018	6.7868
6 Months	8.2117	7.9857
1 Year	9.1683	8.9321
2 Years	10.2717	9.7661
3 Years	11.1233	10.6304
4 Years	11.4817	11.065
5 Years	11.8167	11.3336
7 Years	11.9321	11.5804
10 Years	12.3175	11.8696
20 Years	12.5071	12.2215
25 Years	12.6893	12.4554

SOURCE: MART/BLOOMBERG



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Court voids cigarette tax regulation of BIR

By Michelle V. Remo

THE MANDAUE City Regional Trial Court declared null and void a revenue regulation that subjects to tax reclassification new cigarette brands, or those that have been introduced in the market after 1996.

This means that the Bureau of Internal Revenue will be barred from collecting higher taxes imposed on new cigarette brands stated under the revenue regulation. The prohibition to collect the additional taxes will take effect as soon as the court decision formally reaches the BIR.

The BIR said the court decision had not formally reached it yet as of press time, but the INQUIRER had obtained the ruling signed by the presiding judge.

In a decision penned by Judge Augustine Vestil, the Mandaue RTC said Revenue Regulation No. 22-2003 was unconstitutional because of its discriminatory provisions.

RR No. 22-2003 subjects only new cigarette brands to reclassification to higher tax bracket, making them more expensive than old brands of equal value. The new cigarette brands manufactured locally include Memphis and Astro of La Suerte, and Lucky Strike of the British American Tobacco.

The Mandaue court made the ruling in reaction to a complaint filed by a certain Cesar Torrefranca, a regular buyer of Lucky Strike.

The BIR regulation adjusted the tax imposed on Astro and Memphis from P1.12 to P5.60 per pack. The reclassification followed a market survey conducted by the BIR which revealed that the net retail price of Astro and Memphis should fall under the tax bracket of P5.60 per pack.

The Tax Code imposes the following tax rates: P13.44 per pack for brands sold for P10; P8.96 for brands that cost P6.50 to P10; P5.60 for those that have a net retail price of P5 to P6.50, and P1.12 for brands worth less than P5.

The rule, however, exempts from reclassification brands that were already being produced locally before 1996 regardless of any price adjustment.

La Suerte earlier said it had lost a huge market share since the revenue regulation was implemented in September last year.

Although La Suerte admitted it had increased the price of Astro and Memphis recently, the company said the reclassification should also cover old cigarette brands that have likewise increased prices.

JBIC to finance port projects

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE JAPAN Bank for International Cooperation has agreed to finance some of the governments port projects in Mindanao, according to the transportation department.

It said the projects identified for funding, which were among the 21 priority port projects of the department this year, would cost P1.8 billion.

Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza said that among the port projects that would benefit from the JBIC funding were the expansion of the ports in Dapitan and Nasipit; the Agusan del Norte wharf extension, and the construction of the transit shed in the port of Davao.

Philippine Ports Authority general manager Alfonso Cusi said the government completed 13 port projects last year. This year, the 21 port projects are scheduled for completion.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has directed the transport department and the Philippine Ports Authority to complete the P139.7-million reclamation and access road project of the port of Dalajican in Lucena City; the P82.75-million Pantao port development project in Libon, Albay, and the P86.72-million reclamation and wharf construction in the port of Tacloban, Leyte.

Also in the priority list are the P295-million improvement of the Manila North Harbor Marine Slipway; the P82.9-million reclamation and widening of the RC wharf at the port of Masbate and the P94.88-million port of Currimao development project in Ilocos Norte.

The port projects are part of the administration's so-called Strong Republic Nautical Highway program that aims to fortify the country's water transport system and decongest the roads and highways. Water transport is also considered more affordable than air travel.

According to Mendoza, other priority projects include the construction of passenger accommodation facilities at the port of Liloan in Southern Leyte, the construction of an RC pier and reclamation at the port of Dumangas in Iloilo, the extension of the RC wharf at the port of Coron and the port of Puerto Princesa in Palawan.

Credit stranding

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

WE do not need our wild brand of politics, or the mountains of bad loans in banking, or the rumors about the wedding of Mr. Palengke and a news reader, to drive away capital.

For that, actually, we only need the Supreme Court. Whether we like it or not, the Supreme Court is helping a great deal in damaging our credit standing abroad.

Nowadays, the Supreme Court can easily sow fear among those who are about to sign any contract, or get approval on anything from any government office.

They can never tell what the Supreme Court may do, the moment the Supreme Court meddles with the transaction, which it does more often than not.

* * *

HERE'S a perfect example—the $250-million offering of Meralco abroad. Word in banking is, the offering up to now is hanging, mostly thanks to the Supreme Court.

Originally, Meralco planned the offering for October last year. Today, the company is yet to issue the debt papers, for an unbelievable five months of delay. The offering is ... well, stranded.

The first stumbling block came courtesy of the government guarantee company called Philippine Export Import Credit Agency, a.k.a. Philexim.

Just when Meralco settled the issue with Philexim, the Supreme Court stepped into the picture to cause more delays. The Supreme Court made a ... well, ruling.

* * *

IT seems that Philexim had a standing guarantee for some $250 million worth of loan of Meralco from the Asian Development Bank.

For that loan, Meralco gave Philexim some collateral worth about $2 billion. This, in banking, is known as "overkill."

Thus Meralco asked Philexim to share the collateral with the buyers of its $250-million offering. Anyway, the $2-billion collateral would still cover for just $500 million in Meralco debts.

Typically, in the beginning, the state firm Philexim tried its best to cause delay in the Meralco offering by refusing to share the collateral.

* * *

NOW the investors in the Meralco offering were mostly fund managers abroad. From what I heard, they turned cold feet as soon as the Supreme Court came out with ruling.

It involved the rate increase of 12 centavos per kilowatthour which Meralco got from the Energy Regulatory Commission, or the ERC.

After the ERC granted the rate increase to Meralco, the Supreme Court took it back. The case is still pending, waiting for a final resolution of the Supreme Court.

As for when the final resolution can come out, nobody can tell as yet. History shows us that it can take anywhere from several months to a little less than eternity.

* * *

ANYWAY, we grew up believing that, when it came to the power sector, the authority was actually the ERC. So did actually those investors abroad. We were all wrong.

Today we actually do not know what body has the authority to decide on such highly technical matters as power rates—whether to raise or not.

Well, the ERC must look into a lot of things to decide any rate increase, using some formula which are longer than the sideburns of Fernando Poe Jr.

All that is now useless. The Supreme Court already took over the function of ERC, simply by ruling on ERC rulings. The Supreme Court is now the power expert.

* * *

AND so, based on word in banking, the foreign fund managers started to ask local banks which were helping Meralco in the offering, whether or not the ERC had the authority over power rates at all.

It seemed to them that, after the ERC decides on anything, it then must seek the "final approval" of the Supreme Court.

The local bankers of course told the fund managers that they had better started getting used to it. Under our Constitution, the Supreme Court could step into everything.

No fund manager thus was crazy enough to put money on the Meralco papers. They wanted to wait until after the Supreme Court would have given Meralco the "final approval."

* * *

UNFORTUNATELY for us, the customers of Meralco, the company needed the money—all that $250 million and much more—quite desperately to upgrade its service.

And Meralco would not admit it, but it really needed the 12-centavo rate increase as a come-on to the investors in the $250-million offering.

In other words, without the increase, there is no $250-million offering, and without the offering, Meralco can say goodbye to its business plan for 2004.

For one, it must spend a good deal to upgrade its service. For two, it must repay its maturing debts. For three, it must give its rich customers a little "refund."

* * *

REMEMBER that—the refund—about P5 billion would go to us down here, and about P23 billion would go to them up there?

The same Supreme Court made a ruling that Meralco must refund its customers an "x" amount, which turned out to be P28 billion.

This year, the company was supposed to refund its big residential customers some P5 billion. It asked ERC for two years to do it.

The ERC originally wanted six months, but with its ugly cash flow, Meralco just could not do the "refund" as fast as the ERC dreamed it should.

* * *

IT seemed that the two sides agreed to meet halfway, and from Meralco's two years to pay, and ERC's six months, they reached a timetable of 12 months.

Of course some groups just had to balk at the decision of this stupid good-for-nothing ERC for agreeing to lengthen the refund period to 12 months. It's as if Meralco was getting all the breaks.

I'll tell you what—even at 12 months, Meralco can hardly make both ends of its finances meet. It actually agreed on the 12-month payment, because it thought it had the 12-centavo rate increase secured.

Unfortunately, it failed to take the Supreme Court factor into consideration. From what I hear, Meralco is now graded abroad as a high risk borrower, with a credit standing only a notch higher than "loan default." It is on the verge.

2004 Unilever-Student in Free Enterprise (SIFE) National Exposition

The Manila Hotel and Bayview Park Hotel; 21-22 February 2004

programme

Day One: Morning Session
Saturday, February 21, 2004
Time: 8:00-9:00 AM — Registration
Venue: Centennial Hall Lobby

Time: 9:00 AM — OPENING CEREMONY
Venue: Centennial Hall
Opening Production
Tampisaw Cultural Guild and Tubipora Musica, Iloilo Stage College of Fisheries (ISCOF)

Parade of Sub-Regional Centers' Grand Finalists
2004 SIFE-SAGE Grand Finalists
Opening Billboard: SIFE Philippines in Action
Opening Statement and Welcome Remarks
Dr. Ramon Ricardo Roque
Chairman of the Board, SIFE Philippines

The SIFE Philippines Hymn
Tubipora Musica, ISCOF
Introduction of Keynote Speaker
Dr. Robert F. Galindez, President and CEO
Keynote Address
Mr. Howard D. Belton
Chairman and CEO, UNILEVER Philippines

Presentation of SIFE Global Free Enterprise Leadership Award to Her Excellency, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Mr. Bruce A. Nasby,
Senior Vice President, SIFE Global
To be assisted by: Dr. Jens Mueller
Director, SIFE Asia Pacific
Computer Generated League Pairing
Acknowledgements

Afternoon Session
Time: 11:30 AM-12:30 NN
Time: 1:00-5:00 PM — SIFE ELIMINATION LEAGUE
Judges Orientation Luncheon
Elimination League Proper
Venue: Function Room A
Dr. Robert F. Galindez, President
Prof. Sunny Gabinete and SIFE Coordinators

Day Two: Morning Session
Sunday, February 22, 2004
Time: 7:00 AM — SIFE GRAND FINALS

JUDGES Orientation Breakfast

Time: 7:30 AM
Opening Billboard: Onwards to Barcelona
Presentation of Final Round Judges
Grand Finals Proper
Venue: Maynila, Manila Hotel

Time: 11:30 AM — CLOSING CEREMONY
Venue: Maynila
Opening Production
Tampisaw Cultural Guild and Tubipora Musica, ISCOF

Official Announcement of League Winners
Keynote Address
Mr. Bruce A. Nasby
Senior Vice President, SIFE Global

Grand Finals Proper
Awarding of National Champion
Mr. Bruce Nasby to be assisted by:
Dr. Ramon Ricardo A. Roque and
Dr. Robert Galindez

Afternoon Session
Time: 2:00-3:00 PM — Closing Remarks
Dr. Robert F. Galindez, President and CEO
SIFE Philippines

Time: 3:00-4:00 PM — Closing Production
Tampisaw Cultural Guild and Tubipora Musica, ISCOF
Acknowledgements

Time: 4:00-5:00 PM — Walking Tour
Venue: WOW Philippines
Walking Tour
Venue: Intramuros
Thanksgiving Mass
Venue: Manila Cathedral

Time: 3:00-5:00 PM — SIFE Special Competition
Venue: Bayview Park Hotel

Evening Session:
Time: 6:00-9:00 PM — Fellow and Grand Finalists
Venue: Bayview Park Hotel
RECOGNITION DINNER
Opening Production
Tampisaw Cultural Guild and Tubipora Musica, ISCOF

Inspirational Message
Dr. Manuel Punzal, CHED Commissioner
Opening Billboard:
Outstanding Community Outreach
Awarding and Recognition of Outstanding Advisors
Mr. Bruce Nasby, SVP, SIFE Global
Awarding and Recognition of Champion of SIFE Philippines Award
Dr. Jens Mueller, Director Asia Pacific
Closing Remarks
Dr. Robert F. Galindez, President and CEO
Closing Production
Tampisaw Cultural Guild and Tubipora Musica, ISCOF
Acknowledgements

SIFE
STUDENTS IN FREE ENTERPRISE

What is SIFE?

Founded in1975, SIFE is a global, not-for-profit education organization that is improving the quality of life and standard of living around the world by teaching the principles and values of free enterprise. Working in partnership with business and higher education, SIFE organizers and motivates teams of university students who teach others an understanding of these principles and values.

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2004 Cybercity Teleservices-SAGE Philippines National Exposition

St. Paul College, Q.C. and Bayview Park Hotel; 20-21 February 2004

programme

Day One: Whole Day
Friday, February 20, 2004
Time: 10:00-3:00 PM — MANAGEMENT SEMINAR
Seminar-Workshop on Grant Writing
Venue: St. Paul College of Quezon City
Dr. Curt de Berg
Professor-California State University

Day Two: Afternoon Session
Saturday, February 21, 2004
Time: 11:30-12:30 PM
Time: 1:00-3:00 PM — SAGE ELIMINATION LEAGUE
Judges Orientation Luncheon
Elimination
Venue: Bayview Park Hotel
Dr. Curt de Berg, Global Director
Prof. Ma. Helena Desiree Torre and
SIFE League Coordinators

Evening Session
Time: 4:00 PM — SAGE GRAND FINALS
Judges Orientation Dinner
Opening Production
Venue: Bayview Park Hotel
Dr. Curt de Berg, Director, SAGE World
Tampisaw Cultural Guild and
Tubipora Musica, ISCOF

Opening Billboard:
Onwards to San Francisco
Official Announcement of League Winners
Presentation of Judges
Keynote Address
Mr. Jonathan Rosenberg, President-CyberCity
Grand Finals Proper
Dr. Curt de Berg to be assisted by:
Awarding of National Champion
Dr. Robert F. Galindez
Closing Remarks
Mr. George Sorio, Executive VP-CyberCity
Acknowledgements

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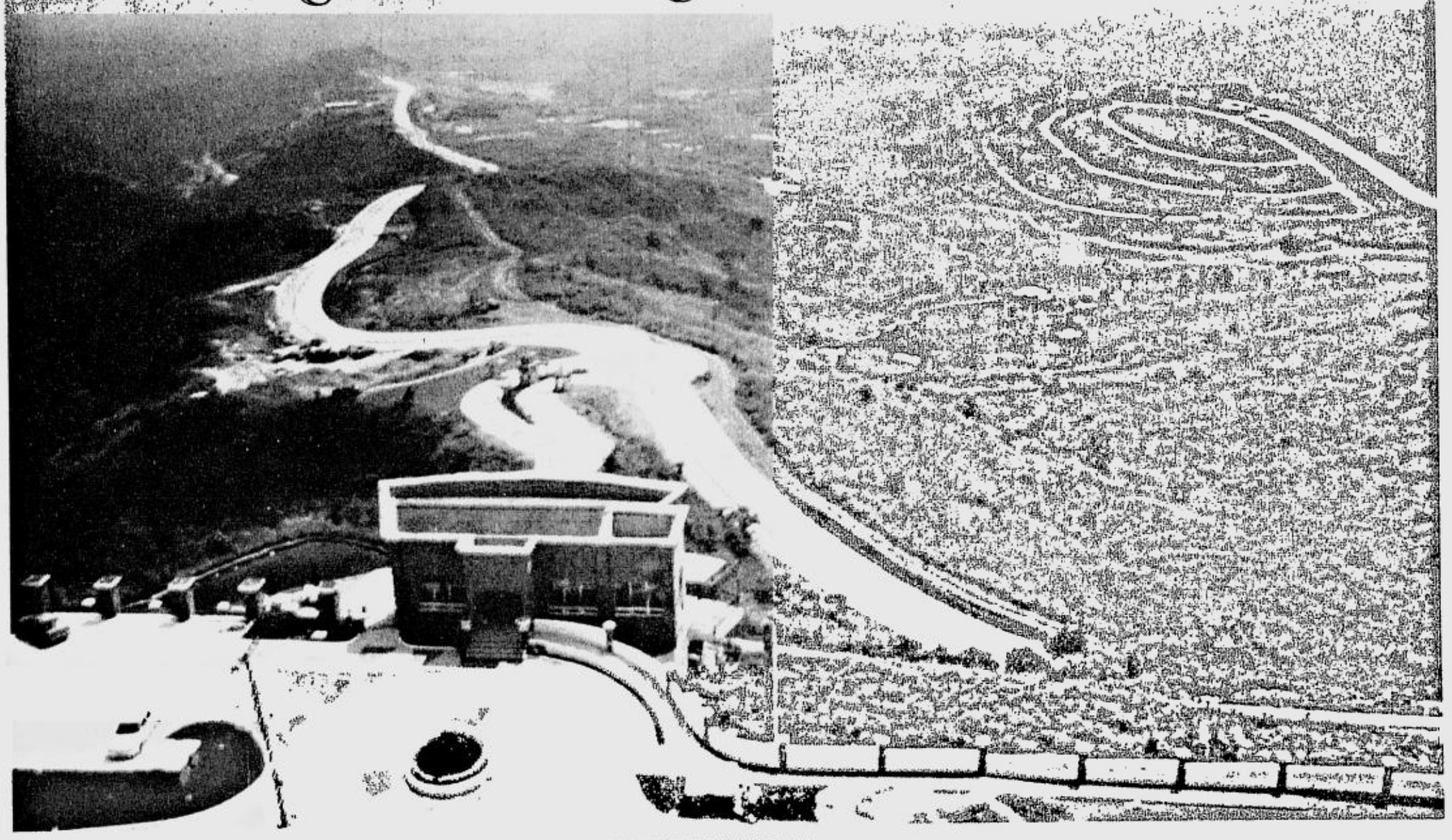
GRAND OPEN HOUSE
Saturday & Sunday | Feb. 21 - 22, 2004

Some people think the view is good enough to build on.



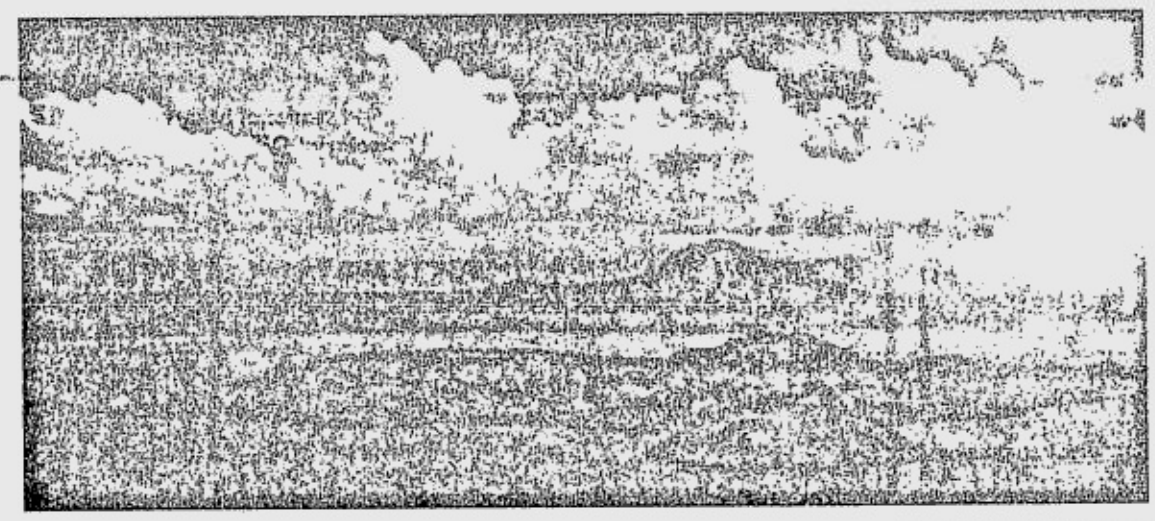
We agree.

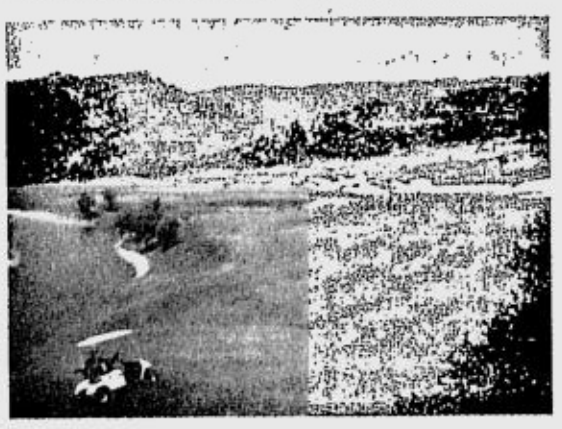
So we built the entire road network, the entrance gate and welcome tower, and planted more trees and created the landscaping.

Now a Championship golf course gives you undulating fairways, natural rolling terrain, and the winds to play in.

We've started work on the Golf Clubhouse, to give you a place to relax in, and enjoy views of the lake and the greens.

Soon, the Community Clubhouse will rise, to give the family more reasons for a great time.





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TAAL
RESIDENTIAL, GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

Feel the new heartbeat of Tagaytay

Developer:
S.TA.LUCIA Realty & Development, Inc.
CREBA DEVELOPER OF THE YEAR 2003

Owner:
JAKA
TAGAYTAY HOLDINGS CORP.

Exclusive Marketing Network:
Fil-Estate Group of Marketing Companies

License to sell No. 0176

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Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
Manila

GUIDELINES FOR MASS MEDIA ACCREDITATION IN CONNECTION WITH THE MAY 10, 2004 NATIONAL AND LOCAL ELECTIONS AND ALL SUBSEQUENT ELECTIONS.

PRESENT:

ABALOS, Benjamin S., Sr.	Chairman
JAVIER, Rufino S.B.,	Commissioner
SADAIN, Mehol K.,	Commissioner
BORRA, Resurreccion Z.,	Commissioner
TUASON, Florentino, Jr., A.	Commissioner
GARCILLANO, Virgilio O.	Commissioner
BARCELONA, Manuel, Jr.	Commissioner

Promulgated on 19 February 2004

RESOLUTION NO. 6628

WHEREAS, mass media should be given access to polling places and other similar places to enable them to cover events and proceedings relative to elections and to provide the people accurate and necessary information;

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the powers vested in it by the Constitution, the Omnibus Election Code and other election laws, the Commission has **RESOLVED** to promulgate as it hereby promulgates, as follows:

SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy. – It is the policy of the Commission to provide true, objective and accurate information about the conduct and results of the 2004 National and Local Elections and subsequent elections by extending to duly-accredited reporters, correspondents, stringers, cameramen, photographers and other members of the news/ editorial staff of local and foreign mass media free access to Comelec offices, polling places and canvassing centers.

SECTION 2. Procedure for accreditation. – The following rules and guidelines shall be observed:

1. **LOCAL MEDIA.** – Accreditation of local media by the Commission shall be exercised through its Provincial Election Supervisors who are hereby authorized to accept proper applications in writing and to grant or deny the same, as follows:
   a) Provincial correspondents of national publications/ broadcast media entities and members of the news/editorial staff of publications/broadcast media entities with provincial, city, municipal or regional reach or circulation shall file their applications in the office of the Provincial Election Supervisor.
   b) Any denial of applications may be appealed to the office of the Regional Election Director within five (5) days, whose decision shall be final and executory.
   c) However, correspondents of national publications/ broadcast media entities and members of the news/editorial staff of publications/broadcast media entities with coverage in Metro Manila or with nationwide reach or circulation, shall file their applications in the Office of the Director IV, Education and Information Department, Comelec, Manila; Provided that any denial of applications may be appealed to the Office of the Comelec Chairman within five (5) days, whose decision shall be final and executory.
   d) The application shall be accompanied by:
      (1) Duly accomplished information sheet;
      (2) Two (2) ID-size photographs of the applicant; and
      (3) Endorsement only from the newspaper, television or radio station or other mass media entity employing the applicant. In no case shall an application endorsed by an entity other than the applicant's direct employer be given due course.
      (4) The Provincial Election Supervisor shall immediately furnish a list of all those he has accredited from time to time to the office of the Director IV, Education and Information Department.
2. **FOREIGN MEDIA.** – Accreditation shall be granted by the Chairman of the Commission through the Director IV, Education and Information Department, Comelec, Manila, only upon proper application in writing in the said Department, accompanied by an endorsement from the incumbent highest diplomatic representative, or in the absence of a diplomatic office, from the highest consular representative of the home country of the applicant. For this purpose, reporters, correspondents, stringers, cameramen, photographers and other members of the news/editorial staff of foreign wire agencies shall be considered members of foreign media.

The application and endorsement shall be accompanied by:

a) A duly accomplished information sheet;
b) Two (2) ID sized photographs;
c) Photocopies of their International Press Center (IPC) Card for the year 2003 (front and back). The original of the IPC press card must however be presented for verification purposes.

3. **MANILA-BASED FOREIGN MEDIA.** – Accreditation shall be granted by the Chairman of the Commission, through the Director IV, Education and Information Department, Comelec, Manila, only upon proper application in writing in said Department, accompanied by an endorsement from the Manila Bureau Chief.

The application and endorsement shall be accompanied by:

1) Duly accomplished information sheet
2) Two (2) ID sized photographs
3) Photocopies of their International Press Center (IPC) Card for the year 2003 (front and back). The original of the IPC press card must be presented for verification purposes.

SECTION 3. When to File. – Applications may be filed beginning seven (7) days after publication of this resolution in two newspapers of general circulation. No application for media accreditation filed after April 30, 2004 shall be given due course.

SECTION 4. Media Card/Pass. – Upon accreditation, media representatives shall be issued the corresponding media pass. Such media pass shall entitle the holder to the privileges enumerated hereunder:

SECTION 5. Privileges. – Duly accredited local and foreign media shall have the following privileges:

1. **Before election day:**
   a) Request any official of the government, representatives of registered political parties, organizations or coalitions, candidates or their representatives, private firms or organizations, any political party or candidate for interview or briefing on the coming electoral exercise, subject to the following conditions:
   b) Said interview or briefing shall be mainly for the purpose of gathering facts or information relative to the May 10, 2004 elections;
   c) Where said interview or briefing constitutes campaign for or against a candidate, both the media entity or media member and the candidate shall strictly observe and comply with the limitations on time, space and expenditures and the requirement for a signed contract furnished to the Commission through the Education and Information Department as provided for in Republic Act 9006; provided that this privilege shall in no case apply to foreign media;
   d) Observe all preparatory activities at the offices of the Election Officers, Provincial Election Supervisors, Regional Election Directors, Department Directors and Commissioners.
2. **On election day:**
   a) Observe the conduct of elections in any locality;
   b) Interview voters, political leaders and other individuals outside the polling place;
   c) And document these by means of audio, visual or audio-visual recordings subject to limitations provided herein and under pertinent laws.
3. **After the elections:**
   a) Observe the counting of votes, the transmission of results, and the canvassing of results, at any level; and
   b) Observe all canvassing proceedings for local candidates and for national candidates wherever located.

SECTION 5. Limitations. – All media men shall observe the following limitations:

a) Not more than three (3) representatives of mass media shall be allowed inside the polling place at any one time;
b) They shall present to the BEI their accreditation cards for identification purposes;
c) They shall stay only in the space reserved for watchers;
d) They shall not in any manner whatsoever, interfere with or disrupt, the proceedings in the polling place; and
e) They shall not engage in partisan political activities or conduct any interview inside the polling place nor shall they, in any manner whatsoever, induce, influence or cajole, any voter to vote for or against any candidate or, in any other manner, manifest a position for or against any candidate.

SECTION 6. Effectivity. – This Resolution shall take effect on the seventh day after its publication in two (2) daily newspapers of general circulation.

SECTION 7. Dissemination. – The Executive Director shall furnish the Office of the President, Office of the Press Secretary, the Department of Foreign Affairs, Philippine Information Agency, foreign embassies and consulates and all mass media organizations copies of this Resolution.

The Education and Information Department shall cause the publication of this Resolution and furnish copies thereof to the Regional Election Directors, Provincial Election Supervisors, and Election Officers.

SO ORDERED.

BENJAMIN S. ABALOS, SR.
Chairman

RUFINO S.B. JAVIER
Commissioner

MEHOL K. SADAIN
Commissioner

RESURRECCION Z. BORRA
Commissioner

FLORENTINO A. TUASON, JR.
Commissioner

VIRGILIO O. GARCILLANO
Commissioner

MANUEL BARCELONA, JR.
Commissioner

(PDI – February 21, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
Third Elementary Education Project
Bids and Awards Committee

Invitation for Bids

February 20, 2004

To All Qualified Bidders:

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) towards the cost of financing the Third Elementary Education Project (TEEP) and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments for civil works component of the project. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the *Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits.*

2. The **Division Bids and Awards Committee (DBAC)** invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the following projects to wit:

Package No.	Schools	Location	Type of Works	PCAB Category
ZDS-NCB-28-05-040	Villanueva PS	Sitio Villanueva, Bgy. Tuluan, Tambulig, ZDS	NC-1 unit-1 CL*	Small "B"

*Multi-Grade Type School building

3. Bidding documents may be purchased at Dep Ed Division Office of Zamboanga del Sur with office address at J.S. Alano St., Pagadian City for a nonrefundable fee of Php2,500.00 for each set. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.

4. Bids shall be valid for a period of ninety (90) days after Bid opening and must be accompanied by a security in the amount of 2.5% of total bid price, and shall be delivered to Division's Bids and Awards Committee, Department of Education – Division Office of Zamboanga del Sur, J.S. Alano St., Pagadian City on or before 10:00 A.M. / March 24, 2004, at which time they will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.

5. For Clarification, a Pre-Bid Conference will be conducted on March 10, 2004 at 2:00 P.M. at the office of the Schools Division Superintendent, Division of Zamboanga del Sur, J. Alano St., Pagadian City.

(Sgd.) **VISMINDA G. SERRATO**
Chairperson
Division Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–February 21, 2004)

National Steel Corporation

INVITATION FOR PROPOSALS TO BUY

National Steel Corporation is inviting offers to purchase by the way of sealed proposals, for cash and on "as-is-where-is" basis, the following assets located at NSC Iligan Plant:

SCRAP METALS, REUSABLE MATERIALS, HEAVY EQUIPMENT

Detailed list of the above assets terms & conditions and proposal forms are available from the following:

MR. JESUS H. GARCIA	Makati City	Tel. No.: (02) 752-4495 to 98
MR. NESTOR MIRAFUENTES	Iligan City	Tel. No.: (063) 221-3758

Deadline for the submission of proposals will be on March 11, 2004 at 3 PM in either of the following addresses:

- Unit 2701, 88 Corporate Center Building, 141 Sedeño corner Valero Sts., Salcedo Village, Makati City.
- Office of the Plant Manager, Admin II Building, NSC Iligan Plant, Suarez, Iligan City

Winning bidders shall be advised accordingly.

The NSC Liquidator reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, to waive any formality found therein, and to accept such proposals as may be considered most advantageous to NSC's interest.

(PDI–February 21 & 28, 2004)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA)** invites all interested Bidders to apply for eligibility/bid for the bidding of Internet Service and Frame Relay Service:

	Approved Budget
Lot 1: Internet Service	P 500,000.00
Lot 2: Frame Relay Service	P 4,000,000.00

The schedule of activities is as follows:

February 16-23, 2004	Issuance of Eligibility Requirements
February 16-24, 2004 (up to 6:00 p.m.)	Submission of Eligibility Documents
February 16-26, 2004 (up to 6:00 p.m.)	Issuance of Bid Documents
March 2, 2004 (10:00 a.m.)	Pre-bidding Conference
March 15, 2004 (9:00 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.) (10:00 a.m.)	Submission of Bids Opening of Bids

List of eligibility requirements and forms can be secured from and submitted to BAC Secretariat, Office of the Deputy Administrator for Finance and Administration (ODAFA), 7th Floor, Matimyas Bldg., 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave., Quezon City upon presentation of a letter of intent specifying the lot or lots a bidder wants to make an offer. Bidding documents may likewise be secured from BAC Secretariat and the same shall be issued to duly registered/eligible bidders upon payment of Php 2,000.00, non-refundable fee. For inquiries, please contact the BAC Secretariat at Telephone No. **712-3341** local 8702 (Remy) or local 8925 (Roger).

Any eligible bidder can bid for one, a combination or all of the lots.

NFA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY ON THE BIDS RECEIVED, PROVIDED THAT SUCH WAIVER DOES NOT REFER TO A MAJOR DEVIATION IN A BID AND TO ACCEPT ONLY SUCH BIDS WHICH ARE ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY.

(Sgd.) **PEDRO S. HERNANDO, JR.**
Deputy Administrator & Chairman, BAC

(PDI - Feb. 14 & 21, 2004)

DISPOSAL SALE

USAID/Manila will conduct a Sealed Bid Sale of used residential and office furniture/equipment, appliances, Sharp reproduction machines, and various electronic equipment including computers, on an **"AS IS-WHERE IS"** basis.

All items can be inspected on February 23 - 25, 2004 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. and in the morning of February 26, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Location: **Warehouse, 2345 Aurora Blvd., (formerly Tramo St.) Pasay City.** Bid forms are available at the site. Submission of bids and cash deposits (20% of the total bid) are done at the site during the sale. Full payment and bid deposit refunds will be on March 1, 2004 at 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

For further information, please call Mr. Romy Arquisola or Mr. Allan Daluz at Tel. Nos. 852-9684, 514-4229, 514-4234 and 514-4236.

DOGS FOR SALE

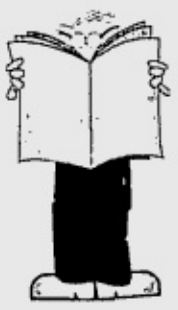
BELGIAN MALLINOIS
adult, proven for breeding
5 female,
2 male

BOXER
adult, proven for breeding
2 female, 1 male

AM-BULL
puppies, complete shots
2 female, 2 male

Look for Boy Lee
9413242

Where you find the best.



JOB ONLINE
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www.jobmarketonline.com

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of February 20, 2004)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	3.65	3.65	3.65	3.65	24,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17	17	16.75	17	13,200
Bank of the Phil. Islands	45.5	45.5	45	45.5	1,030,000
China Banking Corp.	650	650	650	650	1,730
Citystate Savings Bank	16.25	16.25	16.25	16.25	2,200
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	39	39.5	39	39.5	52,400
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.54	0.57	0.54	0.56	210,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	26	26.5	26	26	141,600
Philippine National Bank	23.5	23.5	23.5	23.5	51,200
Phil. Savings Bank	27	27	27	27	1,900
Security Bank Corp.	17.25	17.25	17.25	17.25	9,700
Union Bank of the Phil.	26	26.5	26	26.5	4,500
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Manulife Financial Corp.	2025	2035	2025	2035	1,020
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	34,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	160	169	160	160	26,370
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1500	1510	1500	1500	4,730
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp	23.25	23.5	23.25	23.5	6,500
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	820,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	880	890	880	885	52,320
Ipeople Inc.	1.06	1.1	1.06	1.1	52,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.042	0.042	0.042	0.042	1,500,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	35,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	1.4	1.48	1.3	1.32	44,672,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	20,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	950	975	950	965	562,130
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	19.25	19.5	19.25	19.25	97,800
Manila Electric Co. B	31.5	32.5	31.5	32.5	617,200
Petron Corp.	3.25	3.3	3.2	3.25	2,076,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	100,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.28	1.28	1.24	1.24	552,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	5,277,000
Negros Navigation Co. Inc.	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	300,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	170,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp	1.58	1.58	1.58	1.58	63,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.22	1.24	1.22	1.24	418,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	5,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	31	31	31	31	12,500
Jollibee Foods Corp.	19.5	19.5	18.5	19.25	1,212,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	20,000
San Miguel Corp. A	56	56	55.5	56	726,300
San Miguel Corp. B	69	69.5	69	69.5	946,600
Vitarich Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	110,000
Ayala Corp.	6.1	6.1	5.9	6	2,105,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	200,000
Ajo.Net Holdings, Inc.	0.021	0.022	0.021	0.021	3,300,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.005	0.005	32,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	50,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	20,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.59	0.59	4,080,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	80,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.235	0.235	0.235	0.235	100,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1	1	1	1	10,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	23.25	23.75	23.25	23.5	282,300
Global Equities Inc.	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.055	400,000
House of Investments Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	40,000
Ionics Inc.	1.42	1.42	1.4	1.4	548,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.84	1.84	1.84	1.84	50,000
Megaworld Corporation	1.02	1.04	1.02	1.04	2,182,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.28	0.28	8,480,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1	1	0.98	0.98	200,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	100,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065	400,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.46	0.52	0.46	0.52	600,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	30,000
Manila Jockey Club	8	8	8	8	3,000
Mondragon Intl Phils. Inc.	0.1	0.12	0.1	0.12	310,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	23.25	23.75	23.25	23.75	381,700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series S	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	15,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.7	1,725,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.24	0.3	0.24	0.3	150,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	1,400,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	930,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.06	1.06	1.04	1.06	1,830,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.175	0.175	0.175	0.175	100,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.165	0.165	650,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	2.02	2.02	2	2	374,000
SM Development Corp.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	13,000
SM Prime Holdings, Inc.	5.9	6.1	5.8	6.1	52,241,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	300,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc B	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	20,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	600,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.28	0.28	0.26	0.28	400,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	2,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	600,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	4,000,000
Pacifica	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	3,000,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	110,000

DISCLOSURES

PNOC Exploration Corp. announced the resignation of Lourdes L. Pimentel as director of the corporation effective February 2004.

***

OMICO Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on April 30 at the Makati Sports Club at 9 a.m. with record date on March 26.

***

THE BOARD of **Diversified Financial Network Inc.** deferred its annual stockholders' meeting from March to June 2.

***

PCI Leasing and Finance Inc. disclosed that pursuant to its share buyback program, the corporation purchased 200,000 of its own shares at P1.32 per share on Feb. 19.

***

KEPPEL Philippines Marine Inc. disclosed that the company has not issued any share to Ms Miraquel E. Roldan in connection with her appointment as internal auditory for the company.

***

EDSA Properties Holdings Inc. announced a P.015 per share cash dividend to all shareholders of record as of March 5.

***

CITYSTATE Savings Bank Inc. declared a P0.02 per share cash dividend to all shareholders of record as of March 20 and payment date is on April 2.

***

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Company disclosed that at the meeting of the board of directors on Feb. 19, Antonio O. Cojuangco relinquished his post as chair of the board of directors; Manuel V. Pangilinan relinquished his post as president and chief executive officer and was appointed chair of the board; and Napoleon L. Nazareno was appointed as president and chief executive officer of the company.

***

A. SORIANO Corp. announced that Anscor Consolidated Corp. bought 110,000 of its shares on Feb. 19. Anscor Consolidated Corp. is a 100% owned subsidiary of the corporation.

***

ACESITE (Phils.) Hotel Corp. declared the resignation of Kenneth Ng (a.k.a. Ng Hang Yiu) as director of the corporation effective Feb. 19. ***Compiled by Ray Leyesa, PDI Research***

Megaworld, AGI to develop Boni land

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

PROPERTY developer Megaworld Corp. said it would invest with Alliance Global Inc. P6 billion in a residential project within the former Fort Bonifacio military camp.

Sources said Megaworld would use its newly acquired 6-hectare property from the Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) for its joint development project with AGI.

The project, to be called McKinley Hill, is a 25-hectare residential, commercial, institutional and mixed-use complex that is situated close to Forbes Park and Dasmariñas Village in Makati City.

It is expected to be completed over the next seven years as funding for the project will come from proceeds from pre-sold lots.

Megaworld bought the 6-hectare property from the BCDA for P343.3 million.

Megaworld entered into a memorandum of understanding with AGI last July to undertake a 50-50 joint development of the 25-hectare Lawton Parkway in Fort Bonifacio. Under the MOA, AGI and Megaworld will provide, in equal contributions, funding for the development of the project as well as the payment of all guaranteed revenues to the BCDA.

CURRENCIES

February 20, 2004 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.786720	1.000000	56.1800
Japan	Yen	0.007346	0.009338	0.5246
United Kingdom	Pound	1.490363	1.894400	106.4274
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.101201	0.128637	7.2268
Switzerland	Franc	0.634861	0.806972	45.3357
Canada	Dollar	0.591474	0.751823	42.2374
Singapore	Dollar	0.467035	0.593648	33.3511
Australia	Dollar	0.621765	0.790326	44.4005
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.086902	2.652661	149.00265
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.209792	0.266667	14.9814
Brunei	Dollar	0.465653	0.591891	33.2524
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000094	0.000119	0.0067
Thailand	Baht	0.020085	0.025530	1.4343
UAE	Dirham	0.214202	0.272272	15.2962
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.271100	71.4104
Argentina	Peso	0.268048	0.340716	19.1414
Brazil	Real	0.266685	0.338983	19.0441
Denmark	Kroner	0.134218	0.170605	9.5846
India	Rupee	0.017405	0.022124	1.2429
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.207054	0.263186	14.7858
Mexico	New Peso	0.071748	0.091199	5.1236
New Zealand	Dollar	0.550693	0.699986	39.3252
Norway	Kroner	0.113465	0.144225	8.1026
Pakistan	Kroner	0.013687	0.017397	0.9774
South Africa	Kroner	0.118688	0.150864	8.4755
Korea	Won	0.000676	0.000859	0.0483
Sweden	Kroner	0.108936	0.138468	7.7791
Syria	Pound	0.017888	0.022738	1.2774
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4 KUYA

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1 RUNAWAY JURY
11:10 FS/11:40
MF/2:15/4:45/7:15/9:25
LFS/9:50 LMF/12:00
END

2 COLD MOUNTAIN
11:45 FS/12:20
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LFS/9:50 LMF/12:25
END

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6:30pm | Edades by Nick Deocampo
9:00pm | Greenlights by Robert H. Lieberman

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2 COLD MOUNTAIN	2 BONE SNATCHER		THX GUARANTEED SEATS 2 RUNAWAY JURY 12:20 4:00 6:40 9:20 12:00	2 COLD MOUNTAIN
3 RUNAWAY JURY	THX GUARANTEED SEATS 3 COLD MOUNTAIN 2:00 1:05 8:10 11:15	2 COLD MOUNTAIN 12:35 3:40 6:45 9:50	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 21 GRAMS 2:55 5:35 8:15 10:55	3 MILAN
4 KUYA	4 TOTALLY BLONDE		GUARANTEED SEATS 4 MILAN 1:00 3:35 6:10 8:45 11:20	4 HAUNTED MANSION
	5 HAUNTED MANSION	REPERTORY'S FAME Feb 21, 22, 27, 28, 29 Mar. 6 & 7	GUARANTEED SEATS 5 CHASING LIBERTY 1:30 4:00 6:30 9:00 11:30	5 21 GRAMS
	6 RUNAWAY JURY			
	7 CHASING LIBERTY			

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3 COLD MOUNTAIN
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4 IN THE CUT

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3 KUYA

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3 KUYA
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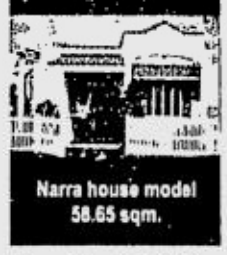
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BULACAN

SAN MIGUEL BUL 4000m²
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Caloocan 323-0175

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PARAGON PLAZA PENT-HOUSE Brand new 234sm w/ 2-parking 3BR.5TB
T5277616 Vioty.Rosa

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3BR MATCOR 0919-2064003

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Tel. 4004336

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LOT

PASIG

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P3,125/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

VILLA LIGAYA LA 149m² & 134m²
P3,534/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

BATANGAS

RANCHO VISTA SUBD LA 613m²
P2,284/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

TAAL BTGS nr Diversion Rd
6794m² P185.50/m² Vic 8903461

BULACAN

SAN MIGUEL BUL 4000 m²
P180/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

TOWN & COUNTRY LA 180m²
P2,902/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

CAVITE

DON BOSCO EXEC HTS LA 128m²
P2,900/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

ST. CHARBEL DASMA LA 371m²
P2,650/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

HOUSE

MARIKINA

3BR 1TB w/Garg P6/mo T426-4569

PASAY

2Sty 2BR nr LRT 8297419 Liway

PASIG

3BR KAP 0919-2064003

LAGUNA

S JOSE AYL 0919-2064003

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

CONDO/TWNHSE

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CLINIC•OFFICE•P6.5Tup
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1.5% CARLOAN 373-6519

1.5% CARLOAN 788-0357

1.5% Easy Carloan 7815352/55

1.5% Fast Car Loan 6560140

•1HR Fast Car Loan 7125202•

2% w/o Taking Car 7262780

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that all BPI-Quezon Ave Espana branch Accts & Parcels of Land with TCT Nos. N-209473 & N-10804 of ADELINA G. MAYUGA has been self-adjudicated as per Doc 58, Page 52, Book IX, Series of 2003 of Notarial Public Manuel L. Hontanosas-Bohol.
(PDI Feb. 14, 21, & 28, 2004)

PERSONAL

Thank You So Much Blessed Mother For Granting my wish...MALOU

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SALESMAN
w/ driver's license 4313975

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FEMALE

MRKTNG LADY w/pleasing personality Beauty N Health CARE INTER'T COM 7132419-7150325 Email: www.mj_luvs_lweety @yahoo.com INTERVIEW until FEB. 22 '04

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is now accepting applications for
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I. Fellowship in Adult Cardiology
- ➢ 3 years Residency in Internal Medicine accredited by PCP
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  - • Deadline for submission of application is on February 27, 2004
  - • Academic Year 2004 starts on April 1, 2004

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- ➢ PCP Diplomate
  - • Deadline for submission of application is on May 24, 2004
  - • Academic Year 2004 starts on July 1, 2004

III. Fellowship in Anesthesiology
- ➢ 3 years Residency in General Anesthesia accredited by PBA (Board eligible)

IV. 1 Year Subspecialty Fellowship in:
- ➢ Cardiac Rehabilitation
- ➢ Electrophysiology
  - • Deadline for submission of application is on March 5, 2004
  - • Academic Year 2004 starts on April 1, 2004

General Requirements:
1. Medical Diploma
2. Transcript of Records with the General Weighted Average
3. Itemized Board Rating
4. Three (3) Letters of Recommendation (coming from different Doctors specifically the Training Officer &/or Director of the previous traning programs)
5. Four (4) pcs. 2"x2" picture colored
6. Certificate of Residency in required specialty
7. Specialty Board Certificate in required specialty

Please address your recommendations to:
JOSE A. YULDE, M.D.
Assistant Director
Office of Education and Research
Philippine Heart Center
East Avenue, Quezon City

For further inquiries, please contact Ms. Carmela M. Ocasion (cp# 09192885303) or Ms. Cleopatra Q. Palencia (cp# 09163021735) with Tel. Nos. 925-2401 locals 3234, 3235, 3236 & 3237 and Telefax 926-9622, or you can email to oer@phc.gov.ph

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Catherine A. Sas
BARRISTER & SOLICITOR
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Immigrating to Canada

RENY DE LOS REYES
Immigration Consultant

CATHERINE SAS
Barrister and Solicitor

Ms. Catherine Sas will be coming to Manila for consultations regarding immigration to Canada on Friday, March 5 and Saturday, March 6, 2004. To book your consultation appointment, please call Ms. Reny de los Reyes at (02)-821-5030 or (02)-776-5227. Ms. Sas will be meeting with clients in Manila at the Business Centre of the Intercontinental Hotel in Makati.

CONSULTATION FEE: Php 1,000.00

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Experienced Copywriters

Layout Artists
knowledge of Mac/PC InDesign and/or Pagemaker is an advantage
experienced in magazine layouts

Technical Writers
excellent English writing skills
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Applicants from Mandaluyong, Makati or San Juan preferred

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Or fax them to (02) 8505527
Or email them to. kentmnl@mozcom.com

IGNATIUS VINCENT T. WARQUE
a.k.a. "CHITO"

The person appearing above has two (2) pending warrants of arrest issued by the following judicial courts:

a) Regional Trial Court – Branch 55, Mandaue City docketed as Criminal Case No. DU-9878 for ESTAFA; and

b) Municipal Trial Court in Cities – Branch 1, Mandaue City docketed as Criminal Case No. 27405 for violation of Batas Pambansa Blg. 22.

(PDI–Feb. 14, 18 & 21, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Social Welfare and Development
Bids & Awards Committee - I

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
KALAHI-CIDSS SPECIAL EVENTS MANAGER

The Department of Social Welfare and Development through the Kapit Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan-Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services Project (KALAHI-CIDSS Project) received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan for the payment of professional services under this contract.

The KALAHI-CIDSS Project is organizing an exhibit and conference workshop of its community driven development projects (CDD) nationwide. The event entails the gathering of Project stakeholders through regional conferences culminating in a national exhibit/conference. The regional and national conferences will present various experiences of people involved in the KALAHI-CIDSS Project while the national exhibit will showcase community projects in different regions. The DSWD now invites individual proponents for the Hiring of Services of a professionals Special Events Manager (SEM).

The Consultant should meet the following qualifications:
1. More than three (3) years experience with credible reputation as event organizer;
2. With program/project experience relevant or related to exhibit and conference events;
3. With extensive network and good working relationship with other event contractors, vendors, suppliers, civil society, NGOs, government, media and donor institutions;
4. Proven skills in project management;
5. Excellent oral and written communication skills; and
6. Can work effectively with minimum supervision, as well as with a team.

Expected Outputs/Deliverables

The following are the expected outputs of the consultant:
1. Logistic plan, layouts, and event/in-hall management
2. Stage backdrop and platform
3. Hall facade design and installation
4. DSWD, donors and regional offices logo board
5. Streamer, A-stands, Hang signs, flyers
6. Laminated IDs with string
7. Opening ceremonies (planning, organizing and staging)
8. Closing/Awarding ceremonies (Planning, organizing and staging)

Applicants shall submit their Application Letters, Comprehensive Resumé and Samples of documents prepared/drafted to the BAC Secretariat, 2nd Floor, DSWD Central Office, Batasan Hills, Quezon City with Telephone Numbers (02) 951-7116 on before **February 27, 2004** at 5:00 p.m.

(Sgd.) **RHODA F. YAP**
Assistant Secretary & Chairperson
Bids & Awards Committee-I

(PDI - Feb. 21, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
Office of the President
Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council
HOUSING AND LAND USE REGULATORY BOARD

Board Resolution No. 756

BUILDING PERMIT AS A POST REQUIREMENT TO REGISTRATION AND LICENSE TO SELL FOR CONDOMINIUM PROJECTS

WHEREAS, the development of residential condominium projects for sale to the general public is governed by the provisions of Presidential Decree No. 957, otherwise known as the Subdivision and Condominium Buyers Protection Act, in relation to Republic Act No. 4726, otherwise known as the Condominium Act;

WHEREAS, Section 4 of P.D. 957 provides that the Authority (now this Board, pursuant to Executive Order No. 648 series of 1981, as amended), shall in the approval of condominium plans, also consider and act on the compliance by the condominium plans with the Condominium Act (R.A. 4726);

WHEREAS, recognizing both the need to ensure the structural soundness and integrity of condominium building plans, as well as the limited capacity of its personnel to handle such evaluation, this Board had earlier devised the scheme and promulgated Rules and Regulations incorporating as one of the requirements for the issuance of Certificate of Registration and License to Sell for residential condominium projects, the issuance of Building Permits by Local Building Officials;

WHEREAS, the housing industry has brought to the attention of this Board the rather expensive application fees for building permits; and it has further argued that if a building permit continues to be one of the requirements of this Board for the issuance of Certificate of Registration and License to Sell for condominium projects, it would become highly impractical, if not altogether impossible, for its members to conduct preliminary selling activities to test the market viability of condominium projects, which test is required by housing finance institutions prior to approval of proposed developmental loans.

WHEREAS, the housing industry have made representations with this Board to dispense with building permit as a prior requirement for the issuance of Certificate of Registration and License to Sell, and instead make the same just as one of the post license conditionalities, moreover, as added precaution to ensure faithful compliance with such conditionality, the Association has manifested that its members are asking only for a Temporary License to Sell, and are willing to deposit the proceeds of sales made pursuant thereto in an escrow account, pending compliance with said conditionality;

WHEREAS, this Board is mandated by its Charter to encourage greater private sector participation in low cost housing through liberalization of technical standards and requirements, and simplification of permits, while protecting the interests of buyers;

WHEREAS, this Board finds the representations to be valid, and its requests to be just and reasonable and not contrary to public policy; moreover, adequate safeguards are proposed to ensure respect and protection for the rights, interests and welfare of condominium project buyers;

WHEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED That building permits be considered as a post requirement for the issuance of Certificate of Registration and License to Sell for Condominium projects, as presently set forth in the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Presidential Decree No. 957 and Batas Pambansa Blg. 220, subject to the following conditions, to wit:

1. That a TEMPORARY LICENSE TO SELL (TLS) shall be issued to Condominium Projects without Building Permits;
2. That said TLS shall be issued only after the applicant submits to this Board a duly accomplished ESCROW AGREEMENT between the applicant, this Board and a bank in good standing acceptable to this Board, that in essence provides that all proceeds of sales made pursuant to said TLS shall be deposited exclusively under the said escrow agreement, and no proceeds therein shall be withdrawn by the applicant or remitted by the bank, until otherwise expressly directed by this Board upon showing of satisfactory compliance with the conditions of said TLS;
3. That the said Temporary License to Sell shall be valid for a period of six (6) months from issuance thereof, but may be extended only for another similar period upon showing of just and reasonable cause acceptable to this Board;
4. That the applicant shall submit monthly report of sales and project operations not later than ten (10) days after the end of each month; and in addition, the bank shall submit monthly statements of account to the Board also within said ten day period;
5. That no excavation or foundation works or structural development shall be undertaken on the project until after submission of building permit to this Board;
6. That non-compliance with any of the foregoing conditions, as well as non-submission of the building permit within the period set forth in the TLS shall serve as sufficient ground for withdrawal of said TLS, refusal of regular license, issuance of Cease and Desist Order (CDO) and imposition of other administrative sanctions as are authorized under existing laws and regulations; and
7. That the TLS to be issued by this Board shall not be construed as granting an exemption or waiver from the applicability of other laws and regulations.

ADOPTED on 17 December 2003.

MICHAEL T. DEFENSOR
Chairman, Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC)
Ex-Officio Chairman

JOSE C. CALIDA
Undersecretary, DOJ
Ex Officio Commissioner

ROMULO Q. M. FABUL
Chief Executive Officer and Commissioner

EDUARDO R. SOLIMAN, Jr.
Undersecretary, DILG

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Deputy Director-General NEDA

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Commissioner

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JESUS YAP PANG
Commissioner

Attested by:

Atty. CHARITO M. BUNAGAN - LANSANG
Board Secretary

(PDI - Feb. 21, 2004)

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The public is hereby informed that Ms. **MAURICIA L. ROBLES** of Block 130, Lot 11, AFP housing, Bulihan, Silang, Cavite whose picture appears herein-above, is no longer connected with Prudential Guarantee and Assurance, Inc. effective November 24, 2003 and any transaction with her shall not be recognized as legal and binding with Prudential Guarantee and Assurance, Inc.

(PDI – February 21, 2004)

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CONRADO M. CRISTOBAL

Peacefully joined our Lord on February 18, 2004 at the age of 70.

His bereaved wife **Paz**; mother **Celerina**; children **Raymund & Mariam, Aldrin & Maricar, Vlady & Malou, Chris**; grandchildren **Alexine, Paolo, Zach, Anton, Toni, Vince, Sam**; and all the relatives & friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Luna Chapel, La Funeraria Paz-Sucat (inside Manila Memorial Park), Sucat, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on February 22, 2004 at Pandi, Bulacan after the 8:30 a.m. Mass at La Funeraria Paz-Sucat.

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1 Copy of Death Certificate
2 Any identification document (I.D.)

• DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS
• DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS

SERGIO P. CORPUS

*Died in the Grace of the Lord and peacefully joined his wife **CLARA** on February 17, 2004 at the age of 90.*

His children **CRISTI, TONY, BEB** and **MANCHIE JAMORA, CHITO** and **TONETTE (LIZARES)**; grandchildren **AGNES** and **ARTHUR, JJ, TISHA, MELISSA** and **RAYMOND**; sister **MEDING**; in-laws **SISTER ESPERANZA, SPC** and **VICENTING OBEN** request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Faith Chapel of St. John Bosco Parish Church, Makati City.

Funeral Mass will be held at 10:00 a.m. today, February 21, 2004 at the St. Thomas More Chapel of the Ateneo Professional Schools, Rockwell, Makati City.

In lieu of flowers, donation to the Clara O. Corpus Foundation, Inc. will be greatly appreciated.

Our Dearly Beloved

ATTY. AMADOR "Mading" LAUREL GONZALES, SR.

(April 16, 1919 – February 20, 2004)

of TANAUAN CITY, BATANGAS

Peacefully joined our Lord on February 20, 2004 at the age of 84.

His loving wife **BENITA GARCIA SABALVARO** (†); children **HAM** and **Mayu, LITO** and **Rica, BOOTS** and **Charlie Nucum, NANCY** (†) and **Bert Barican, JUN** and **Tess, OSCAR** (†), **NET** and **Gi Dolojan, BONG** and **Jhobert Villapando, DOMINIC** and **Joy**; 23 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren; brothers and sisters **LILIA** (†), **ROMEO** (†), **VICTORINA, AMPARO** (†), **JUANITO, CONSUELO, LOURDES, ROSARIO,** and **GAUDENCIO JR.,** relatives and friends, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at 254 N. Gonzales St., Barangay 3 Poblacion, Tanauan City, Batangas.

Interment will be on Sunday, February 22, 2004 at the Himlayan sa Tanauan, after the 1:00 p.m. Mass at the St. John the Evangelist Parish Church, Tanauan City, Batangas.

Virginia Caynap-Valles

26 September 1928 - 20 February 2004

Our Dearest Mama

peacefully joined her mother **Tomasa**, her father **Bonifacio** and brother **Rodrigo** and her Creator in our Lord's Kingdom.

Her husband **Leo** and their children ***Marilen*** and **Efren Macalintal**; ***Christina*** and **Roy Vita** and grandchildren - **Jeric, Josef, Jowen, Juan Miguel, Francis Marc** and **Cristine Mae**; and her relatives: The **Caynap** Family, The **Encarnacion** Family, The **Santos** Family, The **Galang** Family.

Request the pious readers to pray for her eternal repose.

Cremation followed immediately at 4 p.m., 20 February 2004 at the Loyola Memorial Chapels, Makati.

Interment of her remains is on 21 February 2004 at the Sta. Ana Parish Church Osuary.

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

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"God has you in His Keeping
But we have you in our hearts."

Former Mayor

TEOFILO GENUINO GREPO

Peacefully joined his Creator on February 18, 2004 at the age of 82.

His bereaved wife **ARACELI**, his children and grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at his home in Arnaldo St., Gen. Trias, Cavite. Interment will be on Sunday, February 29, 2004 at St. Francis Memorial Park, Pinagtipunan Gen. Trias, Cavite, after the 2:30 p.m. Mass.

Sensational
first for CDN

th year anniversary

CARD POWER brings CDN subscribers global reach in spending. Readers can also use this credit card to enjoy discounts in select stores and to pay for their CDN subscriptions.

By daring to fly higher, Cebu Daily News found a new way to reward its loyal readers.

The prize-winning paper celebrated its sixth anniversary last Feb. 6 at the Waterfront Cebu City Hotel by launching a credit card for the Cebuano community.

The CDN - Security Bank MasterCard matches "fearless spending with a fearless paper" and gives readers global reach. This co-brand card program is "a first in the Philippine newspaper industry," said Dennis O. Valdes, president of Inquirer Publications, Inc. (IPI).

Instead of squirming over the label "sensational", the paper claimed it for its birthday bash, leaning on Webster's New World College Dictionary (3rd edition) that defines the word as "exceptionally good...fine".

Bank officers and MasterCard executives were on hand to celebrate the partnership with top guns from IPI and special guests -- advertisers, newsmakers, news dealers, newspaper dealers and friends.

"We commend both Security Bank and Cebu Daily News for this first-ever co-brand card program specifically designed for the needs of consumers in Cebu, " said Jose Rene Villa-real, MasterCard International VP and Country Head in remarks read by Anton Corro, Director for Operations and Member Relations. The card is truly "a world-class offering"

Belen Lim, SB Cards Corp. president, joined Corro and IPI officers in unwrapping the credit card, which will be fully loaded with discounts and perks for release in the market by March.

Who wouldn't be in high spirits with a banner year behind CDN - a 16% growth in subscriptions with a combined circulation of 32,000 in Cebu and the entire Visayas region?

The 6th anniversary party featured a hot tango which brought to the floor a rare performance by Edward and Eleanor Hayco, the husband-and-wife tandem behind the Dancesport Team Cebu City.

Another surprise lies ahead for readers, it was announced. IPI will be releasing a Collector's Edition of "Espada ni Maria Cacao", the adventure-fantasy comic strip that first ran as a daily series in CDN.

To salute the men and women who put out the paper, CDN Editor in Chief Thea Rinen and News Editor Bingo Gonzales handed out awards for the year's top reporters, correspondents and photographers. Pioneer employees with six years of service were also recognized.

"The real currency of a paper is its credibility," said Publisher Eileen Mangubat. She recalled how, during the paper's start-up, editors insisted that credibility was the no. 1 asset "you could take to the bank."

"Who would have thought we would be talking to a bank six years after?"

The party closed with the annual CDN family picture-taking.

"Say six!" someone naughty yelled. And let the pictures on this page tell the rest.

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1. Antonio Corro, MasterCard International Asia/Pacific Region Director for Operations and Member Relations; IPI President Dennis Valdes; SBS President Belen Lim; Alex Reyes, IPI Vice President for Business Development

2. A toast to more banner years: DOV, Editor in Chief Thea Rinen, Publisher Eileen Mangubat, VP Alex Reyes

3. DOV and Margaret Gaisano-Ang of the Metro Gaisano chain

4. Ernesto Aboitiz, Amparito Lhuillier, Leon Rojas of the Dept of Foreign Affairs, Michel Lhuillier

5. Deonie & Debbie Ann Riveral of RD Pawnshop chain, FVP Lolet Mangilit of SB Cards, PDI VP Finance Jun Ymson, SB Cards Senior Vice President May Siy and Joyce So

6. Cebu's Teresing Mendezona, Aissa dela Cruz, Architect Tess Javier

7. IPI Advertising Manager Peachy Fazon, Studio 7's Cathy Ruiz, Irene Aurio and Gomer Gauna

8. Joel Mari Yu of Cebu Investment Promotions Center, Tetta Baad, AVP of Ayala Land Inc.

9. IPI Marketing Manager Daphne Santos, SBC VP for Business Development Jackie Papa, SBS President Belen Lim, Anton Corro, and SBS Marketing Manager Raffy Simpao III

10. Gwen Garcia Codilla, Capitol consultant

11. CAMP agency's Zen and Vicky Pastoriza

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Siloy, a rare Cebu songbird, shares the spotlight in the credit card.

The bird is CDN's sassy, snooping mascot and is listed as an endagered specie by the Widlife Conservation Society in the Philippines. A few siloys can still be found in bamboo groves in the northern town of Consolacion.

People, Events & Products

E-mail: pr_pep@inquirer.com.ph
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Aries Espinosa

Some enchanted evening

U-BIX Corporation, the country's leading office systems and services provider, marked its 30th anniversary on Feb. 11 with a whole-day celebration at the Dusit Hotel Nikko in Makati City.

A massive exhibit of products and services of the U-BIX Group of Companies was held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. This included the new product lineup of Konica Digital Multi-Function Copiers, Riso Digital Duplicators, Epson Printers, Scanners, Multi-media Projectors, and Okamura Furniture. Also included are booths of ServiceMaster Facilities Maintenance Services, Terminix Termite and Pest Control Services and Merry Maids Home Cleaning Services.

Representative Cynthia Villar of Las Piñas was the guest of honor. She had a tour of the exhibit accompanied by U-BIX chair and CEO Edilberto Bravo; U-BIX president and COO Vida Ty; Hideharu Sekino, executive director of the overseas sales department of Okamura Corp; Kazuhisa Okada, assistant sales manager of Okamura Corp; and the officers, managers and staff of U-BIX Corp.

The whole-day affair was capped by an intimate cocktail gathering starting at 6:30 p.m. Among the distinguished guests included U-BIX's valued clients, partners and statesmen, among them Senators Manny Villar and Edgardo Angara and Czech Ambassador Stanislav Slavicky. Masakazu Okabayashi, general manager of Mitsubishi Corp, led the hot shots from Japan.

It was an evening to remember, as guests were enchanted with beautiful music of the last 30 years provided by internationally acclaimed soprano Maria Rachelle Gerodias and Master Tenor Nolyn Cabahug.

Gerodias and Cabahug serenaded the guests with nostalgic songs of the past such as Some Enchanted Evening, I'm in the Mood for Love, etc.

Likewise, the magic of broadway was brought to life with performances from the powerful tandem of Isay Alvarez and Robert Sena, who sang songs reminiscent of their roles in Ms. Saigon, as well as Josh Groban's The Prayer.

What made the night even more exciting was the celebrity host for the night, the talented Jon Santos, whose comedic interpretations of the nation's celebrities and famous politicians rendered guests in virtual stitches-a first ever in the 30-year history of U-BIX.

It was some enchanted evening, indeed.

THE U-BIX Founders (from left): Edilberto Bravo, Felina Bravo, Florencia Belo, Enrique Belo

MAYBANK GREENHILLS HOLDS FORMAL BRANCH BLESSING

Maybank Philippines recently inaugurated its Greenhills Branch in fitting ceremonies attended by key MPI officers and distinguished guests. Joining the MPI president and CEO Ling Hong Tat in the ceremonial ribbon-cutting are well-known producers Lily Monteverde, prominent broadcast journalist Ces Drilon, entertainment editor Crispina Belen, businessman Baby Aquino, and Mr and Mrs Ciros and Marilen Tomacruz. Mayor JV Ejercito was likewise on-hand to lend support and lauded the Bank's move of adding a second branch in San Juan. Maybank is one of the best-managed banks in Asia and one of the top 130 banks in the world. It has presence in over 13 countries and has a network of over 40 branches in the Philippines. Maybank Greenhills is actually one of 5 new branches opened last year and is one of the fastest-growing Maybank branch in Metro Manila.

Sharing extras at SM

THE IDEA of sharing one's extras - clothes, shoes, accessories, houseware, even appliances - with the less fortunate came about in 1999 when SM Foundation began this mall-based campaign. Shoppers at SM malls could clean their closets and share their excess items - or buy new stuff - and send these to donation booths at the SM malls.

Since then, SM Foundation's Share Your Extras charity campaign in partnership with the Department of Social Welfare and Development has helped a total of 31,235 families or 142,000 recipients in 36 provinces.

Last year, SM Foundation and DSWD reached out to 1,528 families in selected less fortunate barangays, centers, and institutions in 9 regions. These included Ilocos Norte, Cebu, Davao, Quezon, Batangas, Mt. Province, Pampanga, Bulacan, Cagayan, La Union, Pangasinan, Rizal, Iloilo, and Cotabato.

No matter where the goods were distributed, the scenes tugged at the heart: a warm welcome for SM Foundation and DSWD, recipients patiently waiting for their turn as the items were turned over, pure joy on their faces and profuse thanks for the extras received.

SM Foundation and the Department of Social Welfare and Development will be launching its annual Share Your Extras campaign at all SM Supermalls from Feb. 4 to March 4. Media partners include RPN 9 and the Radio Partners group - Magic 89.9, 99.5 RT, and K-Lite.

One can share his extras at donation booths at all SM Supermalls, each donation entitling one to a cash coupon from the Homeworld Department of all SM stores. Beneficiaries will include families living 5th and 6th class municipalities around the country.

You can make a difference. Share Your Extras at Metro Manila donation booths at the Lower Ground Floors of SM Megamall, SM City Bicutan, and SM City Fairview; the Ground Floor of SM Supercenter Sucat; and Upper Ground Floors SM City North EDSA and SM City Bacoor. These are also located at the Third Floor of SM City Sta. Mesa, and the Fourth Floor of SM City Manila.

In the provincial areas, donation booths are located at Lower Ground Floors of SM City Cebu and SM City Iloilo; the Ground Floors of SM City Marilao, SM City Lucena, SM City Cagayan de Oro, and SM City Davao; Building 3 of SM City Pampanga, and the Third Floor of SM City Baguio.

Share Your Extras now!

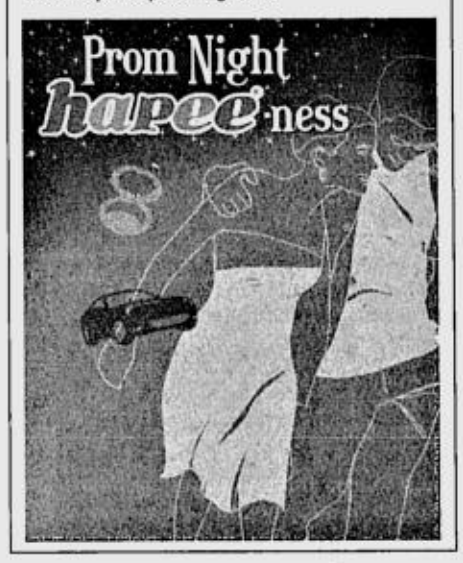
BAYANTRADE TIES UP WITH PISM

Bayantrade, the Philippines' premiere sourcing and procurement services provider ties up with Philippine Institute for Supply Management (Pism) as one of its corporate sponsors of Supplylink 2004, the association's 12th annual conference and trade exhibit. Supplylink 2004 is set on March 4 and 5 at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel, Makati City. This annual conference and exhibit aim to provide its delegates the most stimulating, appropriate relevant and strategic information in the purchasing and supply management context. Present during the contract signing are (from left): Rainfredo Romero, CPM, director - Supplylink; Pism president Miraluz Tan; Bayantrade president and COO Dante Briones and committee member Herman Ong.

ProductFILES

Hapee prom night tip

IT'S your night to sparkle. Take their breath away. Stay sparkling fresh all night with Hapee Sparkling Gels.



CATALYTX ADVERTISING SINGS AND SWINGS ON 3RD ANNIVERSARY

Catalytx Advertising, Inc recently celebrated its 3rd anniversary to the music and ambiance of the 60's, exclusively staged for its clients and strategic partners. Held at the Santan Room of the Edsa Shangri-La, the groovy party served as Catalytx's way of thanking its Clients and Strategic Partners for their support. Shown are Robert Harn, Catalytx creative director (extreme left) and Richard Yang, Catalytx managing director (extreme right) bond with clients during their 3rd anniversary celebration: (from left) Edwin Mapanao, Sarimanok marketing head; Dante Nacar, Sarimanok product manager; Clint Escondo, Univet brand manager; Elcid Paraso, Thunderbird technical head; Mark Remigio, Thunderbird gamefowl specialist; and Jun Regala, Thunderbird gamefowl specialist.

CASH IN ON SHOPWISE SUPER SWEETSTAKES

There is yet another wise reason for you to shop at Shopwise Hypermart. It's the Shopwise Super Sweetstakes promotion, which gives customers a chance to win up to P3 million in cash prizes from Jan. 23 to April 11 this year. Patterned after the world famous Sweepstakes lottery, the promo offers customers a chance to guess the 3-logo combination to be drawn every week. Customers who guess this correctly can win up to P275,000 per week. If no one is able to correctly guess the 3-logo combination in the proper order, the next week's pot gets bigger. In the last three weekly draws, the Shopwise Super Sweetstakes has produced eleven consolation prize winners who have received over P200,000 in cash. Now on its fourth week, the pot money has grown to a whopping P875,000. Every P400 single receipt purchase, P100 of which should include any of the participating sponsor products, entitles customers to one Super Sweetstakes card. For contest mechanics and other game details, check out posters in any Shopwise branch.

BITS Clips

St John's Class '79 leads Homecoming

ST. JOHN'S Institute Class '79 Silver Jubilarians are in the thick of preparations for the Grand Alumni Homecoming slated for Dec. 26. Class '79 lined up a series of activities for the whole year. Two activities have been lined up for February: a Valentine Food Fair last Feb. 15 and on Sunday Feb. 22, a Medical Outreach with free medical and dental services catering to the needs of the parishioners. For March, pep talks on various topics of interest will be held for the benefit of the students. There will be a rummage sale for April, Environmental Protection and Tree Planting for May, Leadership Seminar and Career Seminar for June. In August, "Linggo ng Wika" will imbibe the Filipino culture among the students. September will feature a Healing Session for the Sick on the Feast of St. Lorenzo Ruiz, followed by the Mooncake Festival. October will celebrate Rosary month with the Living Rosary. A Pre-Christmas Bazaar for November precedes the culmination of the year-long activities -- The Grand Alumni Homecoming on Dec. 26. Calling all alumni who have not yet registered. Contact the secretariat or the various Chapters Bacolod: Charlie Co 0919-321-7159, or Suklin Chang Pena 0918-929-0758; Manila: Joe Marie Sy 0917-891-8081; Cebu, Dr. Cymmer Go 0917-320-3637; USA, Rene Abello 949-290-7602.

MAA MUTUALIFE PHILS AND SCB INK AGREEMENT

MAA MutuaLife Phils Inc recently signed with Standard Chartered Bank an agreement that ushers in the two companies' dynamic collaboration in helping develop the local capital market. With the partnership, clients of Standard Chartered Bank, the first international bank established in the Philippines since 1872, can now invest in MAA Privilege Dollar Fixed Income Fund. Signing the agreement are from left: Ma. Ellen Victor, trust officer, Standard Chartered; Mark Langley, head consumer banking; Standard Chartered; Simon Morris, COO, Standard Chartered; Mark Anthony Nathan, country head, MAA MutuaLife; Efren LI. Cruz, president, MAA MutuaLife; and Enrico M. Trinidad, SVP, MAA MutuaLife.

PHILPESTA HOLDS 5TH ANNUAL GOLF FELLOWSHIP

The Philippine Petroleum Sea Transport Association (Philpesta) Christmas party at the Alabang Golf and Country Club coincided with the holding of the 5th Annual Golf Fellowship. Under Class A, Jon Judan (Southwest Tankers Corp) emerged as champion. Boy De Guzman of Batangas Bay Carriers Inc led the winners in Class B. Art Madrigal of Herma Shipping & Transport Corp was best in the Class C category. Bowling and badminton were the other two events participated in by Philpesta members. Leading the ceremonial tee-off was Philpesta chair Toto Umali (second from right) joined by peers (from left) immediate past chair Gerry Santos, future chair Art Madrigal and past chair Ed Lacson.

Introduction to Centering Prayer Retreat

CENTERING Prayer is a prayer of interior silence and alert receptivity to the Divine Indwelling in the center of our being. Growth in the Prayer awakens the spiritual level of our consciousness, cultivating our will to constantly and repeatedly consent to God's presence and action as we become increasingly aware of them in our day-to-day living. The primary purpose of Contemplative Outreach Philippines is to teach the method of Centering Prayer and to offer practices that bring its fruits into daily life. The Outreach also teaches Lectio Divina (Sacred Reading), particularly its movement into contemplative prayer as facilitated by regular practice of Centering Prayer. The ministry offers workshops, retreats and formation programs designed to present the richness of the Christian Contemplative heritage in an updated and accessible format. The Introduction to Centering Prayer Retreat is scheduled on March 19 to 21, 12 noon Friday - 12 noon Sunday. It will be at the B1. J. Marcello Retreat House, Tagaytay City. For particulars, contact 842-0201, 817-7251, 843-8291, 843-8830 (Jazmin).

A forum on Oral Education for the Hearing-Impaired

THE MARIA Lena Buhay Memorial Foundation Inc, which founded the first oral school for hearing impaired children in the country in 1987, will present former students who have since graduated from its oral high school at a forum on Feb. 23, from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Blue Ridge B Multipurpose Hall in Blue Ridge, QC. They will talk on how the oral method, which enabled them to listen , to talk and to understand, helps them cope with college where they interact with their normal-hearing classmates. Attendance is free. The forum is open to all who are interested in Oral Education, particularly parents who have hearing-handicapped children. The Maria Lena Buhay Memorial Foundation oral school accepts all hearing-impaired children and offers pre-school, grade school and high school classes. For more information, call the oral school at 647-1270 or 647-1076.

20 is the magic number

THE 20th Mango Tee kicked off last Feb. 5 to 8 at the Alabang Country Club, also celebrating its 20th year in service. About 400 players battled it out on the challenging Alabang links. Smart Infinity, the unmatched premium mobile telecommunications brand, sponsored the event. It promises to be a showcase for the most demanding and deserving mobile customer, giving truly dedicated all-hours customer service through dedicated Smart Infinity account managers, personalized tailor-made content, and the highest end handsets on the market.

E-mail: pr_science_health@inquirer.com.ph

SCIENCE/HEALTH

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang
Assistant Editor Stella O. Gonzales

Groups want cancer drugs for poor kids

LONDON—Cancer groups are demanding that basic life-saving cancer drugs be made available to poor children who they said were suffering and dying because of lack of funds.

Each year around the world, up to 80 percent of the 250,000 children diagnosed with cancer die because treatments that have increased survival rates in rich countries are not available, or affordable, in poor nations.

For example, according to the National Children's Cancer Society the survival rate for the most common type of cancer, acute lymphocytic leukemia, is 70 percent in developed countries but is only 20 percent in developing nations.

The group said cancer comes only second to accidents as the leading cause of death among children from birth to 15 years.

Cancer charities and patient groups said one way to help poor children would be to put basic cancer drugs on the World Health Organization's essential drug list so they could be given to children who need them.

"The same sort of model that is being used for AIDS drugs should apply to these," said Prof. Tim Eden, president of the International Society of Pediatric Oncology, referring to moves to reduce prices and access to anti-AIDS drugs.

"There's an assumption that treating cancer is expensive, but it doesn't have to be. For some types (of cancer) it can cost as little as $37 to cure a child," he added.

Inequality in treatment

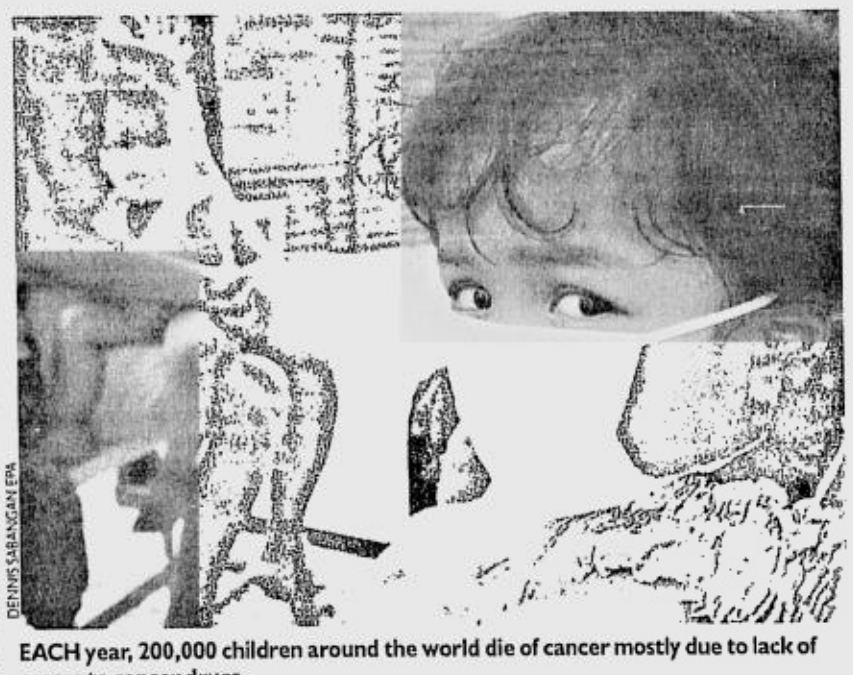
Geoff Thaxter, of the International Confederation of Childhood Cancer Parent Organizations which represents families of children with cancer and works to improve access to care and treatment, said only 20 percent of children with cancer worldwide receive drugs that could save their lives.

"Under the United Nations (Convention on the) Rights of the Child, every child has the right to life, to treatment and to rehabilitation but when you look at childhood cancer there is definitely an inequality in treatment," he said.

The two groups and the British charity Cancer Research UK said recognizing and increasing awareness of the deaths and suffering of poor children with cancer is essential to tackling the problem.

They appealed to the UN and the WHO to work with them to get governments and local communities involved, to improve staff training and to establish partnerships so leading cancer hospitals and organizations in developed countries can share their expertise with developing nations.

"Sharing that knowledge with doctors around the world can make a real difference to children's lives. A proper solution, however, requires a truly international response and it's important that we work to raise awareness of this issue both in the medical community and among the wider public," said Dr. John Toy of the Cancer Research UK. *Reuters*



DENNIS SABANGAN EPA

EACH year, 200,000 children around the world die of cancer mostly due to lack of access to cancer drugs.

Eating out of cancer's way

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

MEDICAL FILES

ALTHOUGH many cancer patients might have been born with defective genes that predispose them to cancer, there is no question that having the right diet may help prevent cancer.

It has been well-documented that vegetarians have a lower incidence of some types of cancer. Many dieticians say that a diet composed mostly of plants, cereals and grains, and devoid of animal products will greatly reduce cancer risk.

If your family has a strong history of cancer, here are some dietary recommendations that may keep you out of cancer's way, as given by our dietician friends from the Manila Adventist Medical Center (formerly Manila Sanitarium Hospital):

1. Eat 5-6 servings of fruits and vegetables each day.

The medical benefits of plant foods are beyond doubt, whether in terms of cardiovascular disease or cancer prevention.

Pancreatic cancer is significantly lower among those who eat raw fruits and vegetables. There are fewer colon cancer cases among frequent cabbage eaters compared to those who eat the vegetable only once a month or less. Oral and pharyngeal cancers are reduced by half among those consuming high amounts of vegetables and fruits.

Soy, broccoli, beans

Soy products such as tofu, soy milk and miso have anticancer effects, especially against colon and prostate cancer.

Cruciferous vegetables, such as cabbage, broccoli and cauliflower have indoles that have benzopyrinase that inactivate benzopyrene. This is protective especially for colon cancer.

Other protective foods are beans which can reduce cancer risk by one-third. Tomatoes have lycopene that protect against pancreatic and prostatic cancer.

2. Eat fruits high in Vitamin A and C.

Vitamin A reduces the risk of lung cancer. Some studies on betacarotene, however, show conflicting results and do not yield a consistent beneficial effect on cardiovascular disease and cancer prevention. Cancer death is reduced by 30 percent among those who are high consumers of both Vitamin A and C.

Plants that have high Vitamin A content are sweet potatoes, cooked green peas, carrots and mangoes. Oranges and cantaloupes are high in Vitamin C.

A note on betacarotene: there are actually 200 carotenoids, each of which has protective properties. If one would simply depend on a daily pill of betacarotene, he will then miss the other 199.

Right Vitamin C dose

For Vitamin C fanatics who gobble grams of this vitamin especially during the flu season, take note that although some health experts have advocated the intake of megadoses of this vitamin, problems do occur especially among those prone to urinary tract stones.

Many experts agree that the 500-mg ascorbic acid tablet is way too high, and the body actually needs only a fraction of this. It is therefore recommended that one get his vitamins through natural sources, that is, through food. Go for natural sources and you can save a hefty sum at the end of the year.

3. Take more fiber.

If you still believe that polished rice and refined food are better, think again. High mortality from colon cancer is noted in countries where populations largely subsist on refined diets.

Fiber gives a lot of benefits.

It shortens gastrointestinal transit time. A refined diet will need approximately 77 hours to travel through the gastrointestinal tract; an unrefined diet will take only 35 hours.

Fiber also attaches to or adsorbs dietary cholesterol (which reduces blood absorption).

It also attaches onto bile acids. It was noted that nonvegetarians have 4-5 times more bile acid production. Excessive bile acids (although normally synthesized in the body) have been associated with colon cancer in rats.

The increased transit time probably decreases the colon's contact with the bile acids. It should also be noted that a high meat diet increases intestinal cholesterol and bile acids as well as anaerobic bacteria (which in turn forms carcinogens).

Fiber also helps reduce sugar absorption among diabetics.

It's better to eat whole grains because they have high fiber that protects against colon and possibly breast cancer.

Good figure

4. Attain and maintain normal weight.

The waist-to-hip ratio should be 1:1 for men and 0.85 for females. Men should have a straight and equal figure. For women, the "pear" shape is healthier than the "apple" shape. The waistline should never exceed 34 inches in circumference.

5. Cut on fats.

Total fat intake should be reduced to 20 percent of total calories. To reduce total and saturated fat intake, one should use only small amounts of low-fat or nonfat milk, milk products and egg whites.

A healthy diet may take some getting used to but even just constantly reminding oneself of its benefits can make it as palatable and gastronomically appealing as a high-fat, finger-licking-good diet.

JOBZ Resumé Central AT Onstage GREENBELT

Nothing would afford us more pleasure than to bring you the first run of Resumé Central this year. The Inquirer's Job Market carries on to meet the needs of our jobseekers in finding the best and right jobs among the bunch.

On February 23 and 24, 2004, the Inquirer's Job Market will host "JOBZ Resumé Central" at Onstage Greenbelt in Makati.

Come to JOBZ: Resumé Central and get the chance to:
- *Input your resumés directly into Resumé Reserve via our computers*
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There will come soft rains...

DISCOVER

Massie Santos Ballon

GRANTED Sara Teasdale was speaking of nuclear war when she wrote those lines. Still, with the dangerously low water level in Angat, the forecast of rain is probably more welcome than usual.

As Ramon Alikpala, executive director of the National Water Resources Board, told the Daily Manila Shimbun, the problem is that the metropolitan population is growing but the number of water reservoirs servicing the area remains constant.

Actions such as cloud-seeding have resulted in a rise of nearly a meter in the Angat water level, although the reservoir still doesn't have enough water to reach the "safe" level.

The good news is that according to the current issue of Geophysical Research Letters, scientists William Lau and Huey-Tzu "Jenny" Wu of Nasa's Goddard Space Flight Center tell us that tropical areas will be getting more rain than before. Surprisingly, we have global warming to thank for this.

Remember studying the water cycle in grade school? Water droplets from bodies of water like lakes or rivers or seas are vaporized by the heat of the sun. The vapor condenses and cools in the atmosphere, where the droplets group together and form clouds. Eventually the clouds are filled with so much water that the water falls back down to the ground as rain. Rainwater then slowly seeps back into the rivers, lakes and seas, and the water cycle starts all over again.

Warm, cold rain

What I don't remember learning is that there are two types of rain: warm, which accounts for nearly 31 percent of the world's rainfall, and cold, which we associate with typhoons or heavy rains and is formed higher up in the atmosphere.

Said Dr. Lau: "In a warmer climate there will be more rain. And more warm rain will be associated with a more vigorous water cycle and extreme weather patterns."

Here's how the Nasa prediction works:

The precipitation efficiency—or the rate at which the water in a rain cloud disappears—of warm rain is much higher than was previously thought.

The reason? Clouds carrying warm rain lose up to 10 percent more water for every degree that the temperature of water at the sea surface rises. This also means that there will be fewer rain clouds left in the sky after a downpour.

Because the world's temperatures are rising fast enough to melt the snows of Kilimanjaro, future warm rain showers may actually become stronger.

But that's not all. The warmer water vapor heats the atmosphere and since we know that heat rises, more water droplets are then carried into the higher part of Earth's atmosphere, which in turn produces more cold and heavy rain.

Quick solutions

So can we expect extra rain before the water level in Angat drops any further? Unfortunately the study doesn't give dates and times, and the water shortage in Metro Manila needs quick solutions.

Desalination, where saltwater is heated and the collected steam is condensed into water you can drink, is one option, especially as Mr. Alikpala notes that "the cost... has gone down over the years."

In the long run, it may also be a good idea to check out the 100-pound water purifier the size of two small refrigerators that produces 10 gallons of drinkable water an hour on 500 watts of electricity that was developed by Dean Kamen, better known as the inventor of the Segway human transporter.

Kamen's machine is essentially a Stirling cycle engine hooked up to a purifier. The heat from the engine vaporizes the water being purified and also serves as the power source to keep the whole system running. No chemicals or filters are required to purify the water.

Although the device hasn't received as much media attention as his other inventions, Kamen has already brought it to Africa and South Asia in an attempt to prove the machine's viability.

Water today, tomorrow

In one episode of Sesame Street, a fish nearly dies for lack of water because a little boy leaves the faucet on while brushing his teeth. Only when the fish tells the boy to turn off the faucet does the boy realize that he's draining the fish's home.

We know that our faucets aren't directly connected to lakes, rivers and seas, so we're not really going to drain these bodies of water the instant we turn the handle.

But we need to be aware that water is a finite resource and should be treasured.

So keep the fish alive, keep the clouds full of rain, and remember that the water you save today is water you can use tomorrow.

E-mail the author at massie@massie.com.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Study shows drug's life-saving benefits

By Charles E. Buban

Dr. Antonio Sibulo Jr., head of St. Luke's Heart Institute Administrative Division.

EVER since the drug valsartan was launched in 1996, doctors have found an effective ally in their fight to reduce their patients' high blood pressure. Recently, the drug was also determined to be effective at reducing the risk, by as much as 25 percent, of premature death after a heart attack.

According to the results of the VALsartan In Acute myocardial iNfarcTion (Valiant) trial, valsartan, an angiotensin receptor blocker, is as effective in prolonging life and reducing heart attack and development of heart failure after a heart attack as the standard treatment using captopril, a conventional angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitor.

These findings were presented before local physicians during a meeting organized by Novartis Healthcare Philippines.

"The results of the Valiant trial have certainly redefined how we should manage our postmyocardial infarction patients who are candidates for heart failure," said Dr. Antonio Sibulo Jr., head of St. Luke's Heart Institute Administrative Division.

He said that because of the trial's size and global scope, Valiant left no doubt that doctors could improve the way they treat the increasing number of people who survive heart attacks.

The medical trial involved 14,703 patients at 931 centers in 24 countries, making it the largest long-term study to date of treatment after a heart attack.

New class of drugs

Since 1981, captopril had been the standard drug for prevention following a heart attack. Like most ACE inhibitors, captopril reduces the risk of death and nonfatal cardiac events especially in patients with underlying left ventricular dysfunction and/or heart failure.

Captopril works by blocking the production of angiotensin II, a chemical the body produces to raise blood pressure.

Valsartan, on the other hand, belongs to a new class of drugs known as angiotensin II receptor antagonists and works by blocking angiotensin from binding to receptor sites in the smooth muscles of the blood vessels.

This blocking action stops the angiotensin from tightening the arteries and raising the blood pressure.

Less side effects

Valsartan offers an effective alternative for patients who cannot take or had to discontinue taking ACE inhibitors.

"We have proven that valsartan is as effective as an ACE inhibitor not only in the treatment of heart failure, but also for patients who cannot be maintained on an ACE inhibitor," said Dr. Inder Anand, professor of medicine at the University of Minnesota.

The most frequent complaint by patients taking ACE inhibitors is the development of bad cough. Other fairly common side-effects are skin rashes and a change in one's sense of taste.

Math in Middle Earth

(Conclusion)

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

LAST week we looked at the controversy among scholars regarding the number systems used by the Elves in Tolkien's "Lord of the Rings." Although many believe that the Elves have an affinity for the base-12 (duodecimal system), Michael Martinez believes that they use a system similar to ours: base-10. This week we look at some more of his arguments against base-12 (taken from his online article "Notinole from Babylon to Middle Earth").

"The decision to emphasize the sixes and twelves, and 144, in Elvish culture was a relatively late one with respect to 'The Lord of the Rings.' Some time after writing the first few drafts for the appendix on calendars, Tolkien settled on the importance of sixes and twelves.

"Several years later he wrote the story of the first Elves and since he had already introduced the concept in 'The Lord of the Rings' he expanded upon it. But just as historians and mathematicians are certain that the Babylonians inherited their base-60 system from the Sumerians, they cannot explain why the Sumerians would have developed such a system.

"We have certainly inherited many numerical concepts from the Babylonians, the zero not being the least. We measure time much as they did, dividing days into 24 hours of 60 minutes each, and minutes into 60 seconds. So we reckon in 60s on a daily basis, even though we actually use the decimal numeral system.

That the Eldar reckoned in sixes and twelves is therefore not an indication that they were using any sort of duodecimal system for their mathematics. It simply means they were preserving an ancient tradition, honoring their ancestors."

Easier to learn

Also, base-10 was more instinctive, easier to learn and to teach. Last we heard, Elves still had 10 fingers and 10 toes. Sure, 144 was used, and so were the seemingly base-12 or base-60 forms given above. But these special notations didn't mean that the Elves used a different system from us.

Martinez concludes, "The first Elves were an illiterate bunch, a primitive people in many ways. They were the inventors of language (among the Children of Iluvatar) and eventually the Noldor devised the tengwar, just as the Sindar developed the cirth. But the retention of ancient numbers with special sociological or culture significance doesn't imply that the Elves did not, could not, evolve beyond such limitations.

"Their special nomenclature for decimal values (ten, hundred, thousand) and the tengwar decimal numeral system imply very strongly that the Eldar, and the Dunedain, were base-10 users. It all adds up if you put the numbers together in the right way, so to speak."

Learning tengwar

So you want to learn Elvish numbers? David Doughan and Julian Bradfield devised a nice, easy system of numeric tengwar.

Zero is symbolized by a character which looks like a "c" backward. The numbers 1, 2 and 3 are built on a luva, the curved bow, hanging down. One luva was used for "one," two luvar for "two," and three luvar for "three."

The numbers 4, 5 and 6 were created by using a telco stem, which looked like a capital "J" backward, and then adding first one luva (for "five") and two luvar (for "six"). The numbers 7, 8 and 9 reversed the telco. This system assumes that a zero will be used to increment orders of significance, and that position will denote value.

One advantage is that the base-10 system is quite flexible. (In the exercise of changing bases in class, students find it easiest to shift from base-10 to others, rather than say, from base-12 to base-2.)

Ten is represented by adding another luva to nine, creating a base-11 numeral system. If we also add a luva to six we can create a base-12 system.

Martinez reminds us that "these higher-base systems require that the values in the tengwar table be shifted: six remains a six, but seven becomes eight, eight becomes nine, nine becomes ten, and the new symbols become seven and eleven."

At least we have one thing in common with Legolas: our math system.

Dyslipidemia and hypertension: Real and imminent danger

IT WAS a typical working day for Gilbert Malang, an account manager in a multinational company. Despite the recurring headaches, which he associated with pressures at work, he went about doing his daily routine. By the middle of the afternoon, however, the headaches intensified and a few co-workers noticed that his speech slurred. When his brother called him up and made a similar comment, Malang decided to immediately consult his doctor.

Malang's physician told him that his blood pressure (BP) was elevated. He was also grossly overweight. A cholesterol-level check also revealed that he had high LDL (low density lipoprotein) level, also known as bad cholesterol.

He was told that the high LDL level together with his high BP and obesity exposed him to a serious threat of a heart attack and stroke.

High cholesterol is a well-established risk factor with high BP for cardiovascular diseases and their complications given their role in forming plaque that narrows arteries and restricts blood flow. It also has been shown to cause the blood vessels to constrict excessively, which may interfere with overall BP regulation, resulting in high blood pressure.

Malang's doctor made him undergo a treatment regimen aimed at controlling his cholesterol level. He was prescribed a daily dose of statin along with a drastic change in diet and other lifestyle habits. His cholesterol level dropped significantly when he stuck to his medical regimen.

"My doctor was very specific when she told me that I needed to take statin on a long-term basis if I wanted to manage my hypercholesterolemia. Knowing the consequences of my disease, I knew I did not have a choice but to do so. I only hoped then that there was a more affordable statin in the market," said Malang.

To his relief, Malang learned from his doctor that an affordable brand of simvastatin from Therapharma has been introduced in the market.

Only after his doctor explained that simvastatin was as effective as the statin he was taking did Malang agree to change his medicine.

The advent of an affordable simvastatin has spelled a difference in Malang's life. His family now enjoys the money he was able to save from this cost-effective treatment.

ASK THE DENTIST
Paul R. De Castro, DMD

Worried about X-rays

I WENT to a dentist to get a second opinion about my impacted tooth. He says he'll need to take another X-ray from another angle. I am worried about radiation. I think I already get a lot of radiation from my microwave, cell phone, computer and television set. Isn't too much X-ray dangerous?

I can understand your concern regarding radiation from gadgets around you. Unfortunately we need these gadgets for our modern life. Latest studies show that the radiation from your cell phone, computer and TV set are very minimal and thus safe. For the microwave, you need to stand four-and-a-half feet away from it to be safe.

Dental X-rays have been proven safe because 18 exposures is equivalent only to an afternoon under the sun. And you only need one more, so consider this X-ray an investment for a better diagnosis.

E-mail your questions at dentalsq@yahoo.com.

FDA okays tiotropium for COPD patients

RIDGEFIELD, Connecticut—The US Food and Drug Administration has approved the tiotropium bromide inhalation powder for the long-term, once-daily maintenance treatment of bronchospasm associated with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease.

COPD, which includes chronic bronchitis and emphysema, is primarily caused by smoking. Tiotropium bromide inhalation powder, discovered and developed by Boehringer Ingelheim, will be co-distributed in the United States with Pfizer Inc.

The anticholinergic medication is the first inhaled treatment to provide significant and sustained improvements in lung function with once-daily dosing. It targets the primary reversible component of COPD: constriction of the airways.

For easier breathing

The medication helps COPD patients breathe easier by opening narrowed airways and helping to keep them open for 24 hours. According to treatment guidelines of the Global Initiative for Chronic Obstructive Lung Disease (GOLD), long-acting bronchodilators such as tiotropium bromide are the preferred treatment option for COPD maintenance therapy.

"It provides significant improvements in key measures of lung function and represents a major advancement in the treatment of all stages of COPD," said Dr. Dennis E. Doherty, chair of the National Lung Health Education program and professor of medicine and chief of the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine at the University of Kentucky Medical Center.

Said Doherty: "It will become a first-line maintenance treatment for patients with mild to severe COPD. Patients may be able to control their symptoms for a full 24 hours with scheduled once-a-day use of tiotropium, allowing them to breathe easier, reduce their reliance on rescue medications, and help them achieve a more normal lifestyle."

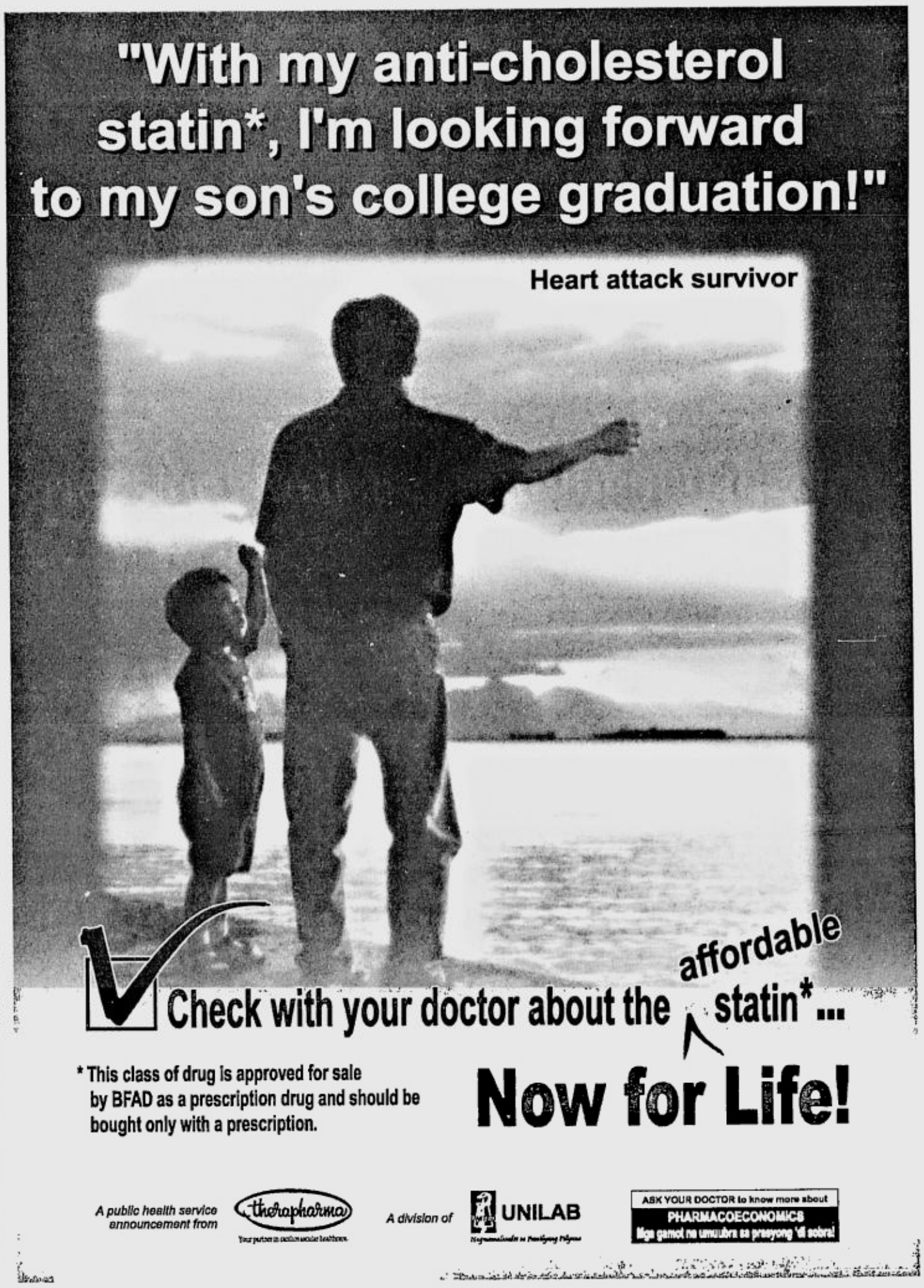
Significant improvements

In clinical trials, the medication demonstrated significant sustained bronchodilation. Also noted were significant improvements in lung function over Atrovent (ipratropium bromide), a current first-line therapy for COPD, which were maintained over one year.

In addition, during one-year studies, patients treated with tiotropium bromide required fewer doses of rescue medications. Clinical studies, both ongoing and completed, involve more than 9,400 patients.

The drug was generally well-tolerated. The most common adverse reaction patients reported during clinical trials was dry mouth, which was usually mild and often resolved during treatment. Constipation and increased heart rate have been reported infrequently in patients receiving tiotropium. As an anticholinergic drug, it must be used with caution in patients with glaucoma and prostatic hyperplasia as it may worsen symptoms of these conditions.

Tiotropium bromide has been launched in more than 40 countries. In the Philippines, the medication was made available to Filipino COPD patients two years ago.



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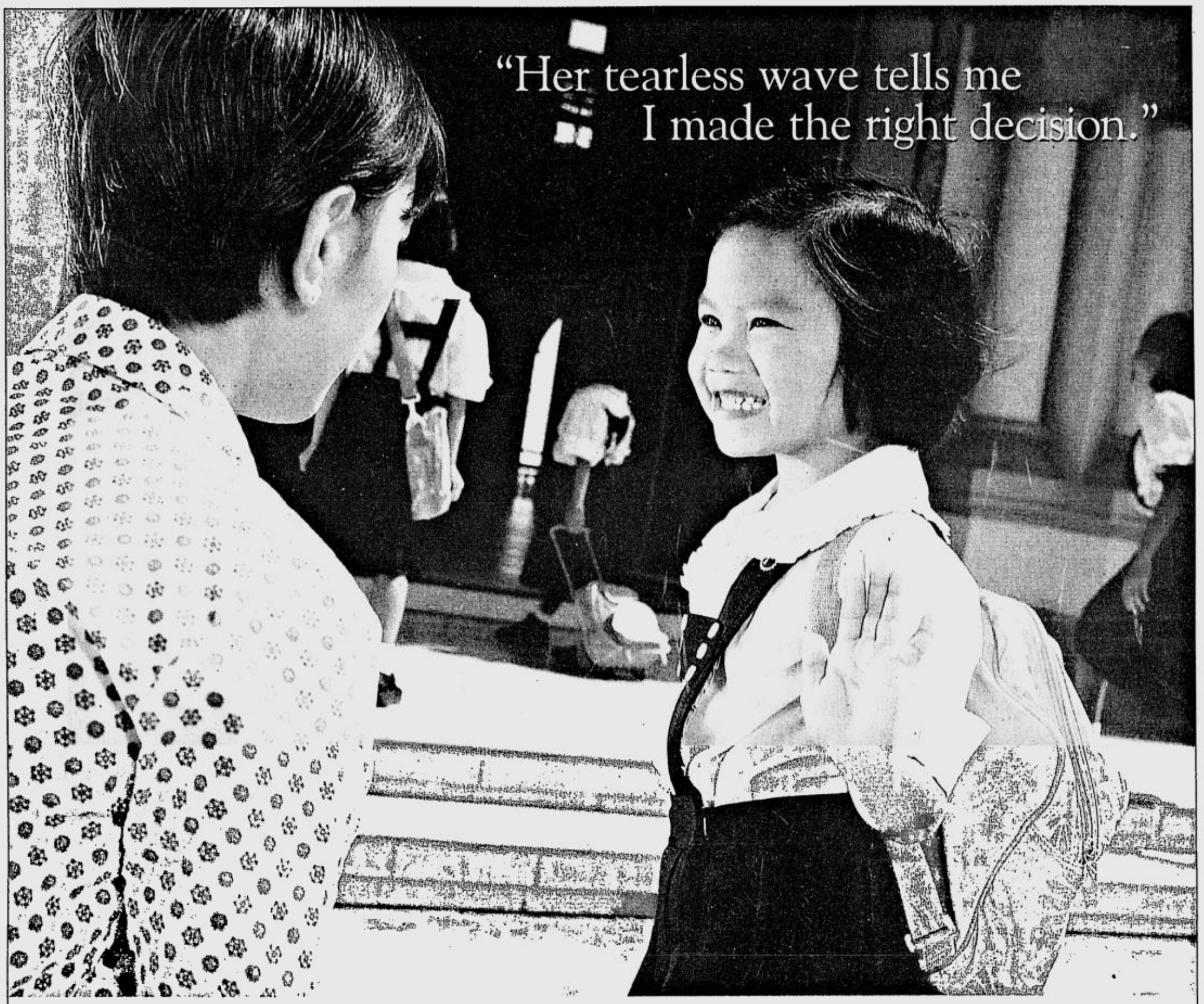
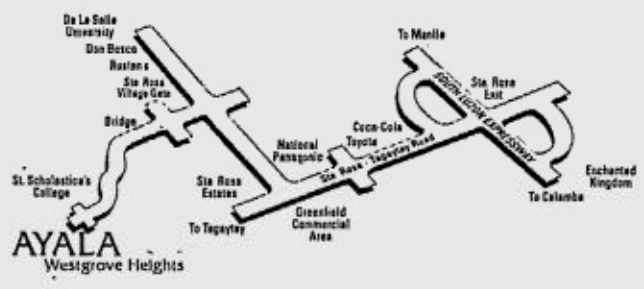


Because of the heavy traffic that seems to be a fixture of early morning city life, I would get up at the crack of dawn and reluctantly wake my children for school. They had to get moving that early just to make it on time. They would be so tired and stressed out, they barely had the energy to do their homework at night, let alone spend enough quality time with us. That's when I decided that my family deserves a better life. So we moved to Ayala Westgrove Heights. Sitting on 400 hectares of rolling hills and sun- kissed groves, Ayala Westgrove Heights is the Next Big Thing, after Makati and Ayala Alabang. With complete recreational facilities, and surrounded by the best schools, my kids not only get an extra hour of much needed sleep, I have enough time to walk them to school myself. After all, St. Scholastica' s College Westgrove is practically a few steps from my door. Now, seeing my little girl wave me off as she confidently walks up the steps to her new school, letting go of my hand without her usual tears, I know I made the right decision. - **Mrs. Gerg Santos**



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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2004

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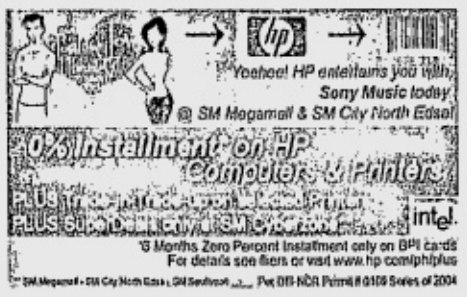
E-mail: pr_saturday_special@inquirer.com.ph

SATURDAY Special

Editor Nestor U. Torre Assistant Editor Rito P. Asilo



FOX. Plays a surgeon afflicted with obsessive-compulsive disorder on the series, "Scrubs."

Michael J. Fox scrubs up for return to TV

LOS ANGELES—Michael J. Fox couldn't resist the lure of television comedy or an executive producer's pleas.

Inspiring physician

The actor, who left the television series, "Spin City," in 2000 after he was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, guest stars as an inspiring physician in two episodes of the sitcom, "Scrubs," beginning this week on the NBC television channel.

He's reunited with "Spin City" executive producer Bill Lawrence, who admitted to shameless begging to get Fox.

"I told him if he came back to TV and it wasn't 'Scrubs,' I'd kill myself," said Lawrence, executive producer of the NBC series.

When Fox told Lawrence he was feeling good and thinking about series work, he asked if "Scrubs" would be interested in having him. He didn't presume there would be a job for him, Lawrence said.

"That's the kind of guy he is," he said.

Fox, 42, has devoted much of the last few years to raising money and lobbying for research into his disease, which was diagnosed in 1991 and resulted in symptoms including tremors, stiffness and loss of balance.

Talented and creative

"I don't miss working that much but there's nothing like the feeling of being with a bunch of people you know who are talented and creative and are having fun," Fox said.

The hardest part, Lawrence said, was writing a script that allowed eager cast members a chance to work opposite Fox. Series stars include Zach Braff, John C. McGinley and Sarah Chalke. *AP*

Judy Ann, Claudine and Jolina compared

By Nestor U. Torre

BARRETTO. Bounces back with "Milan" and "Marina."

MARK, a regular reader from Laguna, writes: "Years ago, you wrote an article on Judy Ann Santos, Claudine Barretto and Jolina Magdangal. It explained why these three young actresses were on top. Could you review their careers again, as an update?

Changes

"I've noticed that there have been changes in their careers, notably in the case of Claudine, who I think has already overtaken Judy Ann and Jolina. You said then that for Claudine to be able to catch up with the other two, she had to make more movies. And now, she already has a box-office queen award..."

It's interesting to do this comparative update on Judy Ann, Claudine and Jolina's careers, as requested:

Judy Ann hasn't topbilled a movie in months, but she has a hit TV series, so she's still successful. On the debit side, however, rumors about a romance with her TV co-star, Robin Padilla, although vehemently denied, have had a negative

JUDY ANN/ C2

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Crazy In Love — Beyoncé Knowles — Grammy Nominees 2004 — RINGTONE: N3 — POLYTONE: T3 — WALLPAPER: C3 — LYRICS: LY3
Whenever I Say Your Name — Sting & Mary J. Blige — Sacred Love — RINGTONE: N4 — POLYTONE: T4 — WALLPAPER: C4 — LYRICS: LY4
She Will Be Loved — Maroon 5 — Songs About Jane — RINGTONE: N5 — POLYTONE: T5 — WALLPAPER: C5 — LYRICS: LY5
Come Clean — Hilary Duff — Metamorphosis — RINGTONE: N6 — POLYTONE: T6 — WALLPAPER: FREE* — LYRICS: LY6
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Viva Hot Babes	Bulaklak	N114	T114

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Young artist triumphs over adversity

By Nestor U. Torre

ON Feb. 27, a unique concert will be staged at the CCP, featuring blind tenor and pianist Carlos Alberto Ibay. The "Gift of Love" solo concert is a benefit for the Family Life Apostolate, and is being presented by Sinagtala and the John Paul II International Center for Family and Communication.

Inspiring testament

Ibay's life story is an inspiring testament to his family's love and faith in God, made even stronger by adversity.

Doctors warned Carlos' mother that she would have a difficult pregnancy, and advised her to have an abortion, but she insisted on carrying her baby to term.

Carlos weighed only two pounds when he was born prematurely, and overexposure to oxygen in a nursery incubator led to the complete loss of his vision.

Undeterred, his parents did all they could to help him achieve his potential in the area of music, in which his interest manifested itself when he was only nine years old. He became a child prodigy in piano and voice, impressing audiences with his precocity.

Today, at 24, he is a versatile pianist who also possesses a "bel canto" tenor voice. His vocal repertoire includes sacred songs, popular tunes from musicals, classical jazz, and Filipino and Italian pieces.

Linguist

He is also a linguist who speaks fluent German, French, Spanish, Italian, Russian and Japanese.

At 12, Carlos won first place at the Peabody Conservatory Spring Festival, and second place in the Steinway Piano Scholarship Competition of the Mid-Atlantic, as well as in the Merlin-Engle Piano Competition at the Levine School of Music.

IBAY, shown here with Pope John Paul II, is a versatile pianist with a "bel canto" tenor voice.

In the year 2000, he performed at the opening of the Rachmaninoff Center of Musical Culture in Novgorod, Russia.

And he has received awards at many competitions, attesting to the exceptional quality of his musical gift and the outstanding training he has received. Call Sinagtala at 726-1567.

After learning about Carlos' performing visit to the Philippines, we contacted Martin Lopez, Sinagtala's moving spirit, and urged him to convince the young pianist-singer to stay in the country longer, so he could do more shows around the country.

Limitations

The way we see it, Carlos can inspire millions of disabled Filipinos as well as youths and students, because he has overcome the limitations usually imposed by his disability.

He's also young and personable, so it will be easy for students to empathize with him, and to draw strength and inspiration from his example.

Above all, Carlos is an acclaimed performing artist who has set high standards for himself despite his blindness, so his sterling example can encourage other disabled people and the youth to be similarly focused and determined.

Enthusiasm

Martin shared our enthusiasm for Carlos' suggested "inspirational tour," but informed us that the young musical artist first has to join a piano competition in Spain this May. After that, the US-based artist could be persuaded to do a grassroots concert tour here in the succeeding months.

Great news all around! But first, let's catch Carlos Alberto Ibay's "Gift of Love" concert at the CCP on Feb. 27, and pay tribute to a young artist who has refused to let adversity get in the way of the achievement of his dreams.

Austin and Ingram weave love's musical spell

By Sharon Wendy A. Robas

THE VALENTINE show, "Heart to Heart," with Patti Austin and James Ingram at the CCP Open Grounds started very late, but all was forgotten when Austin sang her opening number, "Do you Love Me?" Everyone was awed by the soul diva's powerful and expressive voice.

Ecstatic

The crowd was ecstatic as Austin dished out one hit song after another—"All Behind Us Now," "Smoke Gets In Your Eyes," "This Side of Heaven," "True Love," "Stop, Look, Listen" and "Rhythm of the Street."

AUSTIN. Calls Filipinos "the greatest singers in the world."
ROGER MARGALLO

We felt proud to know that the band and back-up singers who accompanied Austin were Filipinos. When they were introduced, the audience gave them a well-deserved ovation.

Austin's hit songs are so familiar to Filipinos that only a few notes of the songs' intros would bring the crowd to shrieking frenzy, and almost everyone sang along with the well-loved hits, "If I Believe" and "Say You Love Me."

Talent

The crowd loved it when Austin acknowledged Filipinos' musical talent, calling us "the greatest singers in the world!" She added that, if "American Idol" would be brought here, "it would take them years to bring the contestants down to one!"

When James Ingram hit centerstage with his own band, it was "videoke" time once again as he performed "One Hundred Ways," "Just Once," and "I Don't Have a Heart."

Duets

Austin joined him later to sing two well-liked duets, "How Do You Keep the Music Playing," from the movie "Best Friends," and "Baby Come To Me."

Ingram's sentimental songs, "There's No Easy Way," "She Loves Me," "Whatever We Imagine," "Somewhere Out There" and the upbeat "Yah Mo Be There" didn't fail to elicit screams from the audience. Ingram's vocal power touched every romantic heart that night!

'Festival of Twins'

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

SINGSON with her twins.

THE Philippines joins a growing number of countries like the United States, Canada, Mexico, United Kingdom, Australia, France and Singapore, and is holding its own "Festival of Twins" today, Feb. 21 at the Clam Shell 2, Intramuros.

Driving force

Natalie Palanca is the driving force behind the festival. She has twin granddaughters.

The Nuguid twins, Drs. Arnel and Romeo Salud Nuguid, are both certified pediatricians. They will be at the forefront of the first "Festival of Twins" in the Philippines.

Rebecca B. Singson, MD, FPOGS, mother of twins, will speak at 9 a.m. on "Raising Twins."

Dr. Singson made it a point to

'FESTIVAL / C3

Judy Ann

From page C1

effect.

Claudine also had her low period after Rico Yan's death, but her new movie, "Milan," and her new TV soap, "Marina," in which she plays a mermaid, indicate that she's recovered from that low spell, and her stellar career has bounced back.

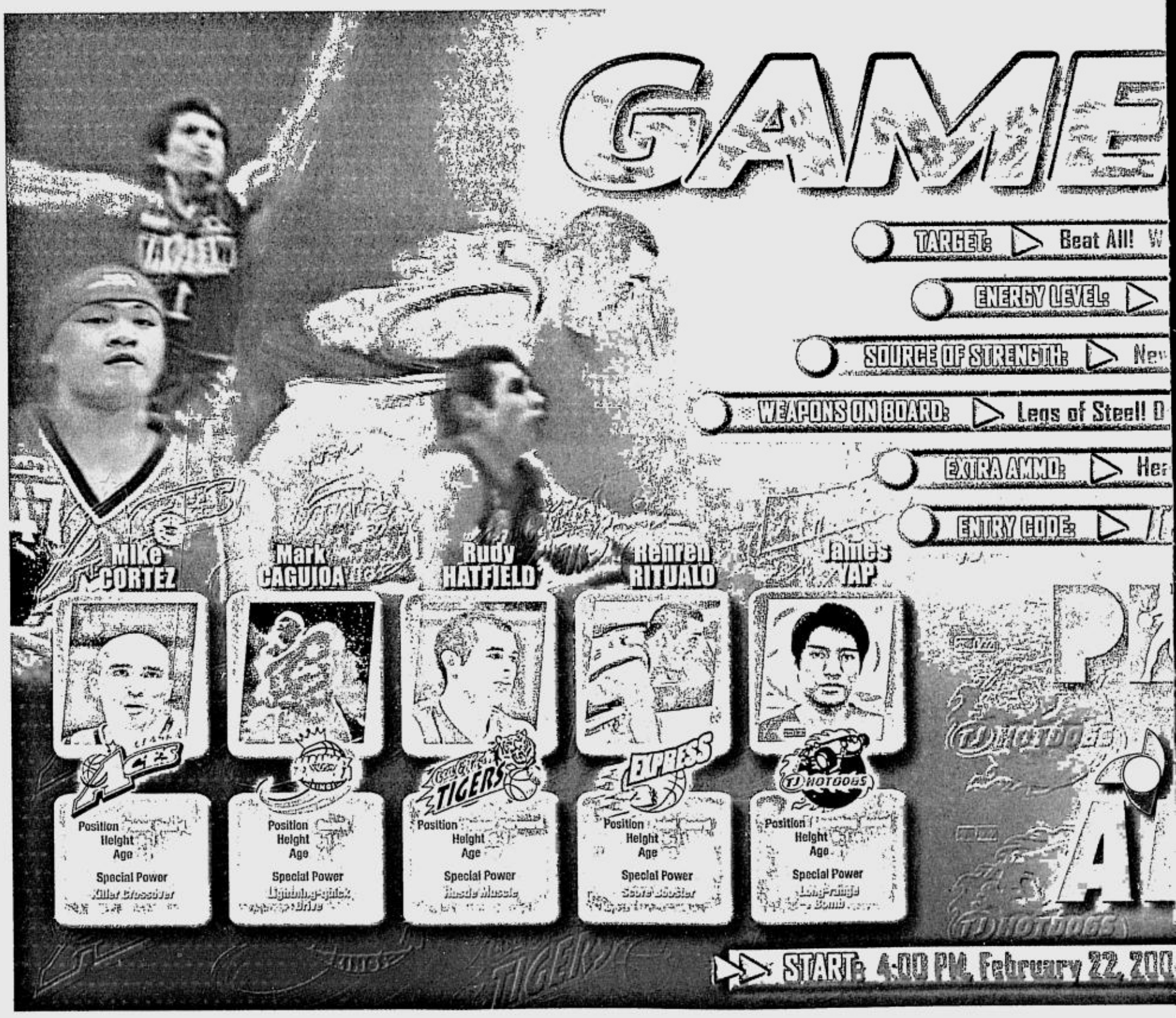
For her part, Jolina was affected by her move from ABS-CBN to GMA, but she's recovering with her new Viva film, "Annie B.," and she does have her own TV soap on Channel 7, aside from her records and businesses.

Leading lady

So, it's fair to say that all three young stars have good career prospects. If either "Milan" or "Annie B." is a big hit, it'll propel its leading lady to the lead of this troika.

We also have a hunch that "Marina" will click with televiewers when it starts showing soon, because this is the first time that a TV soap is being built around a mermaid character. We could be wrong, of course, but if both "Milan" and "Marina" hit it big, Claudine will be "it" in this year's young star derby.

As for Judy Ann, she should line up a new movie soon, to keep from being eclipsed by Jolina and Claudine. It's true that TV stardom is important, but there's nothing like a hit movie to make a star the toast of tinseltown.



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AY *Special*

Julia Roberts, Jerry Yan topbill unremarkable films

By Rito P. Asilo

IT has been an exhilarating month for movie buffs. Last week's Valentine fare offered not just Hollywood films being shown in time for the Oscar crunch, but it also deluged the local screens with features from neighboring Asian countries, European art house flicks and lovely Spanish romantic dramas. —And, yes, F4 Jerry Yan's feature film debut!

Quirky love stories

Topping our list are the quirky Spanish love stories sponsored by the Instituto Cervantes at Greenbelt's Art Film: Ricardo Franco's heartbreaking "Lucky Star" tells the story of a lonely butcher (Antonio Resines) who saves a one-eyed prostitute (Maribel Verdu) from a brutal attack, and falls in love with her.

After learning that she's pregnant (courtesy of her attacker Daniel, played by Jordi Molla), he marries her and lives a happy domestic life—until the attacker returns. Problem is:

YAN. "Magic Kitchen" fails to take advantage of his undeniable movie star appeal.

ROBERTS. Preternaturally charismatic in Mike Newell's 1950s drama.

She's still in love with the biological father of her child, and is torn between the two men.

Another personal favorite that had us in stitches is Joaquin Oristrell's hilarious love story and satire on the theater profession, "No Shame" (Sin Verguenza): A script based on a love affair falls in the hands of an acting teacher, Isabel (Veronica Forque), who, upon reading it, realizes that it is about the 17-hour romance she had with its now-famous scriptwriter-director, Mario Fabra (Daniel Gimenez Cacho), whom she met 21 years earlier.

Romantic soiree

Unfortunately, it wasn't just a "fling" to her (or to him, for that matter)—the short-lived romantic soiree produced a daughter, who's now a promising actress about to meet her unknowing father. —And he's about to watch performances at Isabel's acting school!

Mike Newell's "Mona Lisa Smile" is about a prestigious all-girl school's new art history professor, played by the preternaturally charismatic Julia Roberts, who takes on the '50s zeal for conformity and attacks the era's limited options for women.

The film, while often enjoyable, lacks conviction and coasts along on the knockabout charm of its cast that includes Kirsten Dunst, Julia Stiles, the scene-stealing Maggie Gyllenhaal and the consistently delightful Marcia Gay Harden.

"Magic Kitchen," a confusing romantic *cum* culinary comedy, fails to take advantage of the undeniable movie star appeal of "Meteor Garden's" Jerry Yan, who does nothing but smolder, pout or smile wanly when he's not "required" to raise product-placed cans of Pepsi.

But the movie boasts of delightful cameos from Chinese cinema's superstars (Andy Lau, Michael Wong, Sammi Cheng, etc.) who lend their names to support Yan in his film debut. Jerry's participation, unlike Ken Zhu's admirable turn in "Sky of Love" or Vanness Wu's action-star presence in "Star Runner," feels more like an afterthought. The film is glossy—but so are many films from Hong Kong, Singapore or Taiwan!

Constant search

Ole Bornedal's "I Am Dina," an interesting French-Norwegian psychosexual drama, is more interesting for its photography than for its story, about a young woman (Maria Bonnevie, a Holly Marie Combs lookalike) living in a remote Norwegian county in the 1860s.

As a child, she accidentally kills her own mother, and is then rejected by her own father. The trauma transforms her into a terrifyingly disturbed woman whose constant search for love has disastrous consequences.

Bornedal makes his heroine too enigmatic to constantly engage our interest and empathy, and the film is bogged down by over-the-top performances (from Bonnevie, Gerard Depardieux, Christopher Eccleston), and horrendous accents.

'Festival

From page C2

allow her twins to develop their individuality by placing them in different schools.

Fertility

Dr. Singson also manages fertility for those who are having difficulties in child-bearing.

"Festival of Twins" is supported by Pro-Life Philippines Foundation, Inc., City of Manila, Department of Social Welfare and Development and Council for Welfare of Children. Call 421-9641.

E-mail the author at mn_photocom@i-manila.com.ph or mandynavasero-pro@yahoo.com

Perfect comfort food

LIFE used to be so simple. A sandwich was just white bread, mayo, lettuce, tomato and filling.

Today, for the bread alone, there are many choices, like brown, white or whole wheat.

WORD OF MOUTH

Sandy Daza

For mayo, there is low fat, fat-free and regular. For the meat, you have veggie meat or regular.

New product

When you visit the grocery, aisles are full of a variety of brands, all claiming to be the best. Advertising promotions are regularly launched to introduce a new product.

But what really makes a good product? Nothing will ever beat taste. No matter how good the packaging is, it all boils down to *taste*.

A few months back, I started doing taste tests on items on the grocery shelf that have a variety of choices. One of those I chose was corned beef. There are over a dozen brands to choose now, most of them locally made.

Rating sheet

For my taste test, I sampled nine brands. I had each plate numbered and I had a rating sheet. On another sheet, I listed the various brands with their corresponding number, and saw the names only after I had finished my ratings.

The ones I thought had promise, I marked and tasted again. The ones I didn't like, I eliminated. Some were bland, others tasted like soap, some were good enough, while others stood out.

The brands I sampled were all local: Gusto, Swift, Ligo, 555, Winner, El Rancho, Argentina Purefoods and CDO.

El Rancho, Purefoods, Ligo, 555 and Winner passed the elimination round and, in my humble opinion, came out the best. Each one had its own asset.

With *sinangag* and fried egg, corned beef is the perfect comfort food. No wonder many Pinoys abroad look for our locally-made corned beef. Check out these brands.

Happy eating!

For comments email sandydaza@shaw.ca

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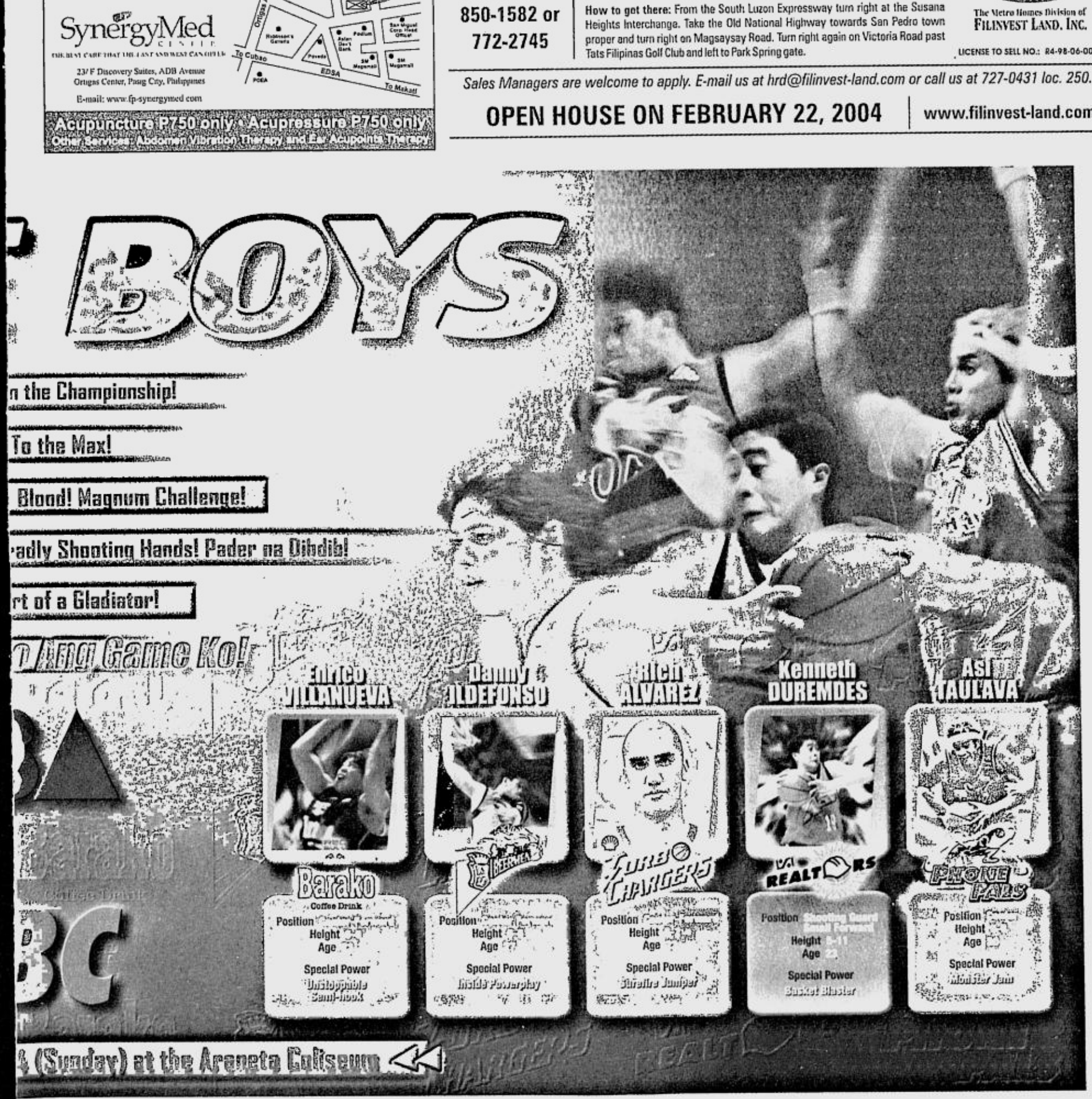

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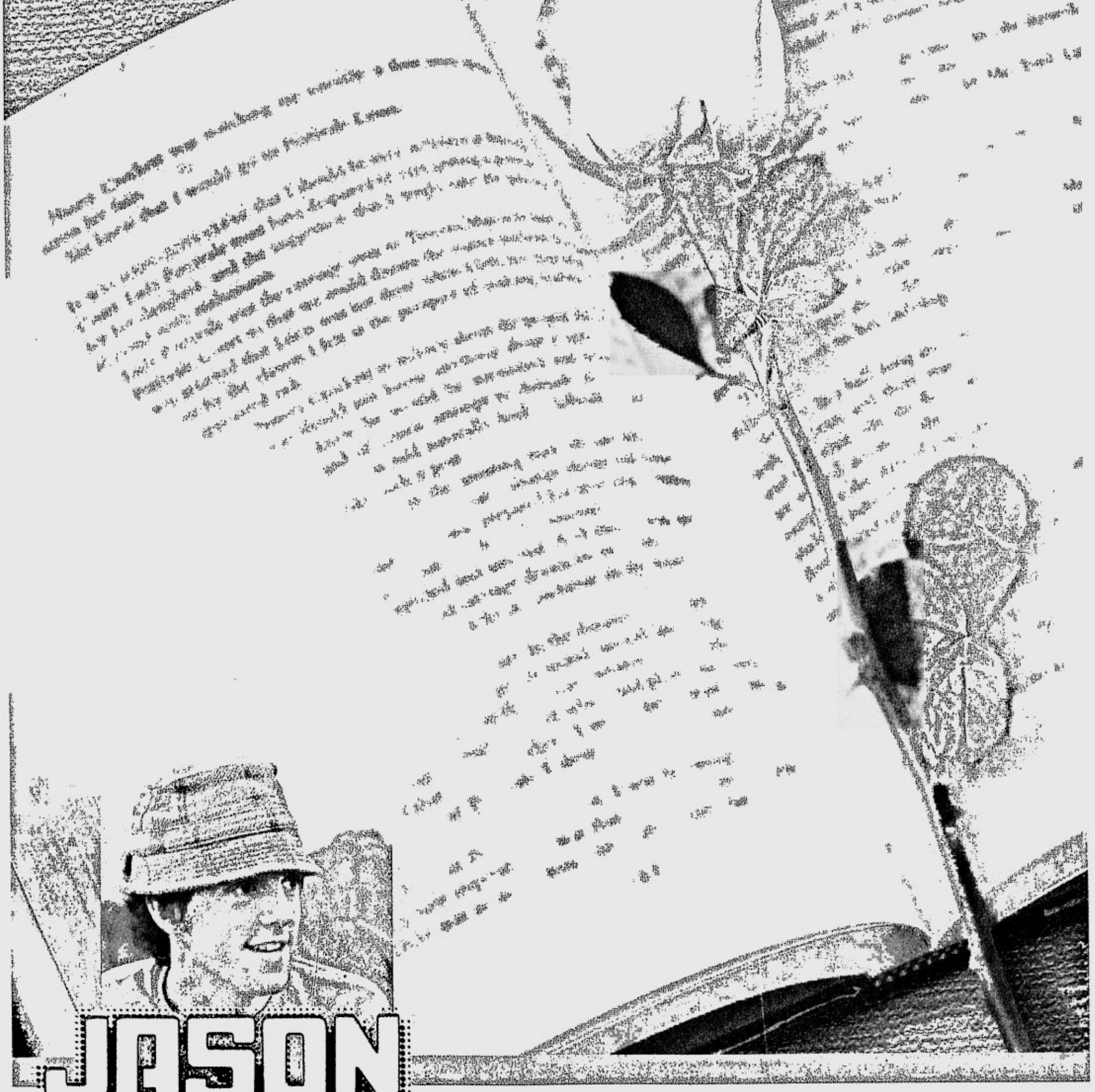

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SATURDAY Special

Women make their mark at Berlin filmfest

BERLIN—Charlize Theron is in most scenes and kills seven men; Cate Blanchett is a sharpshooting 19th century single mom outwitting men, while Nicole Kidman and Renee Zellweger push their male co-stars into mere supporting roles.

Strong characters

At the Berlin Film Festival, women playing strong characters dominated the screen, and their growing clout was also clearly evident behind the camera as directors, writers and producers.

Even the jury—four women and three men—was headed by a woman: Frances McDormand, who won an Oscar in 1997 for "Fargo." "It's about time," McDormand told Reuters when asked about the abundance of women in leading roles in films seen in Berlin. "It's important. It shows women are doing more writing now, too. For anyone who hasn't noticed, we are an interesting gender."

Charlize Theron won a Silver Bear best actress award for her stirring performance as a low-life Florida prostitute turned serial killer in "Monster."

Civil War epic

Blanchett eclipsed co-star Tommy Lee Jones in the American Western, "The Missing." Kidman and Zellweger also outshone Jude Law in the Civil War epic "Cold Mountain," which was screened out of the competition.

Zellweger said there are obvious reasons why strong women are now featuring atop cinema marquees more often.

"People making films are recognizing there is value in portraying female characters that way—audiences are interested, and there's a market for those sorts of films," she said. "They are beautiful stories. Things are definitely changing."

The festival, one of Europe's top three, ended on Sunday.

Eight of the 23 films competing for the festival's prizes over the last 11 days featured women in the top role and four films were directed by women, including "Monster" by Patty Jenkins and "Something's Gotta Give" by Nancy Meyers.

Love story

Many other films, such as a widely applauded love story, "Before Sunset," between an American novelist, played by Ethan Hawke and a French environmental worker played by Julie Delpy, evenly balanced their male and female lead characters. *AP*

ZELLWEGER. Pushes her male co-stars into mere supporting roles.

Indies feted at CCP film and video competition

By Rica Arevalo

LAST Feb. 13, independent filmmakers and students gathered at the Cultural Center of the Philippines (Main Theater lobby) to celebrate the 17th year of the CCP Award for Alternative Film and Video. This competition pits the brightest and youngest talents against the pillars of short filmmaking in the country.

LLANSANG. Plays a young violinist in Milo Sogueco's "Eroplano."

Mixture

The winners were a mixture of oldtimers like Roxlee, who won first prize in the experimental (professional) category for "Tronong Ginto" and first-time winners, like Ateneo de Naga's Omar Aguilar for "Agrabyado."

No doubt about it, Aguilar's work is one of the finest, freshest "music videos" I have seen this year. It is a must-see for MTV directors.

In the documentary category, the first prize winner was Djoanna San Jose from UP Diliman. "Cheese Curls" is San Jose's personal documentary on how she copes with her autistic sister.

Another student-winner was PLM's Joan Jelica Lopez whose autobiographical video, "Respite," placed 3rd in the documentary category.

Judge Howie Severino shared that he and co-jury Luchi Cruz-Valdes were happy with the way the winners gave importance to storytelling rather than technical work.

For the short feature video category, Milo Sogueco's "Eroplano" and Jeorge Agcaoili's "Tabing" tied for first place.

"Eroplano" stars Lester Llansang as a young violinist anxious about his forthcoming audition. "Tabing" is a comedy set inside a movie theater with the audience experiencing reel and real-life events.

Recognition

Before Raymond Red and Mark Meily invaded advertising, their short films were first given recognition by the CCP.

This year, we saw the reverse: Advertising people like Agcaoili and director Sockie Fernandez have joined the competition. Fernandez won second place in the short feature category for "Liyab." Judges for the short features were Patrick Flores, Leo Martinez and Jon Red.

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- P1[illegible],000 gift certificate at The Farmers Cube, Batangas
- P15,000 worth accommodation for two at The Peninsula complete with limousine, and other amenities

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International Video MMS – [illegible]
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Love is in the air at Cinema Paraiso 2

CINEMA Paraiso 2, a flagship project of the Committee on Cinema of the NCCA (National Commission for Culture and the Arts) and Asian Eye Productions, cast a romantic spell when it opened last Feb. 4 at the NCCA in Intramuros.

Entitled "A Celebration of Love Themes and Love Teams in Philippine Cinema," Cinema Paraiso 2 opened with the unveiling of an exhibit of rare glamour photographs and movie stills, and publicity pictures of iconic love teams from the pre-war era to the 1980s.

ROCES. Heartfelt gratitude.

SRO crowd

Leading the SRO crowd that showed up for the screening of the opening film, "Perlas ng Silangan," were guests of honor Susan Roces and Christopher de Leon. Susan was the love team partner of Eddie Gutierrez at Sampaguita Pictures, while Christopher remains the most enduring screen partner of Vilma Susan could not help but feel sentimental during the program hosted by NCCA Committee on Cinema chairperson Boots Anson-Roa and Ricky Davao.

Appreciation

Addressing the audience, Susan said: "*Natutuwa ako na buhay ang* appreciation *sa* art *ng* cinema. *Hindi pa rin nagbabago ang mga* sentiments *ng tao, lumipas man ang panahon.*"

She also expressed heartfelt gratitude for the discovery of a print of "Zamboanga," a 1936 black-and-white classic starring Rosa del Rosario and Fernando Poe Sr., father of her husband, Fernando Poe Jr. (FPJ)

Cinema Paraiso 2 is screening classic romantic films till March 5, Monday to Friday, at 7 p.m., at the NCCA Tanghalang Leandro Locsin. Call 687-2543.

Coconut oil heals

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Bismark

I HAVE been taking two tablespoonfuls of extra virgin coconut oil orally. I also apply it to my face and hair, for insect bites and skin rashes.

Alternative medicine

My doctor, who specializes in alternative medicine, has compared it to Lorenzo's oil.

We should rediscover the uses of this oil the way our ancestors used it for thousands of years.

Clinical studies have shown that coconut oil has anti-microbial and anti-viral properties.

It is now being used in the treatment of AIDS. Studies conducted here show that coconut oil does indeed reduce the viral load in AIDS patients.

Today, it is even used in Ayurvedic medicine. Modern medicine has recently confirmed the many health benefits traditionally attributed to this oil.

Its saturated fat is unlike the fat found in meat and vegetables. It is identical to a special group of fats found in human breast milk that has been shown to improve digestion, and protect against bacterial, viral and fungal infections. Sports drinks use it to enhance athletic performance.

Management

Virgin coconut oil is used for the management of digestive disorders such as Crohn's disease (a chronic inflammatory disease of the lower intestinal tract), irritable bowel syndrome, and colitis (inflammation of the colon). It is also a powerful agent against intestinal parasites.

Even thyroid sufferers find that virgin coconut oil boosts metabolism. Research also shows that it may be effective against fungal infections of the mouth and vagina.

Another amazing fact is that even though virgin coconut oil is a form of fat, it actually promotes weight loss.

In summary, virgin coconut oil has antiviral, antibacterial, antimicrobial, antiprotozoal properties. How much virgin coconut oil should one consume? A good therapeutic dosage is three to four tablespoons a day. This provides enough lauric acid to strengthen the immune system. So, look for extra virgin coconut oil that is food grade, and stay away from all hydrogenated oils.

Magnifico, Maryo and Michiko

From page D4

the reading, many of Michiko's classmates were in tears, fully empathizing with her characters' problems.

Before being made into a film, Michiko's screenplay for "Magnifico" won the top prize in the FDCPI's national scriptwriting competition. We were bowled over when we learned that Michiko had written her prizewinning script—in only one day! Some people have all the—talent.

But we've heard, too, that Michiko has had her share of disappointments in the local movie industry. So we hope that the award "Magnifico" got will boost her spirits. And we trust that our best producers and directors will tap her to write screenplays for their future projects, with fewer artistic heartbreaks this time around.

'Electile Dysfunction'

The hit political satire, "Electile Dysfunction," will be staged anew at Music Museum at 8 p.m. on Feb. 26 (sponsored by Lotus 25), Feb. 27 (Sagip Bayan Foundation) and Feb. 28 (Women for Women).

The show's headliners play "presidentiables" who are all involved in a plane crash.

Actors include Patricia Ismael, Raul Montesa Jr., Robbie Guevarra, Noni Buencamino, Boboy Garrovillo and Chari Arespacochaga, and direction is by Leo Rialp. Call 843-3836.

Grand raffle draw

The MTV Debit Card grand raffle draw will be held on March 15. You have until Feb. 29 to get a card at Equitable PCI Bank branches, and automatically participate in the draw. Prizes include 10 Casio EX-M2 Digital Cameras with MP3 function or P5,000 worth of credit in MTV Debit or Pre-paid cards.

The MTV Debit Card can be used to make purchases not only in the Philippines but also in other countries, since it is a Visa Electron co-branded card between MTV and Equitable VCard.

Some parents give the MTV Debit Card to their kids, It's safer than carrying bills, and is handy for emergencies since it also doubles as an ATM card.

Movies on TV

On HBO, Feb. 21 at 6 a.m., "Tender Mercies." Feb. 22 at 9:30 p.m., "A Beautiful Mind." Feb. 23 at 12:30 p.m., "Apollo 13." Feb. 24 at 6 :30 p.m., "Mission Impossible," Feb. 25 at 5:30 p.m., "The Accidental Tourist." Feb. 26 at 9 p.m., "America's Sweethearts." Feb. 27 at 1 p.m., "Vanilla Sky."

On Cinemax, Feb. 21 at 6 a.m., "Midway." Feb. 22 at 7:45 a.m., "The Bridge on the River Kwai." Feb. 23 at 7:30 a.m, "The Godfather, 2." Feb. 24 at 1 p.m., "From Here to Eternity." Feb. 25 at 7:30 a.m., "Around the World in 80 Days." Feb. 26 at 11:30 a.m., "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" Feb. 27 at 8:15 a.m., "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?"

Mel Gibson interview

Raymond Arroyo's interview with Mel Gibson on his new film, "The Passion of The Christ," will be replayed on EWTN (Skycable Cahnnel 63) on Feb. 21 (9 a.m., 1 p.m., 8 p.m.), Feb. 22 (6 p.m.) and Feb. 27 (8 p.m.).

Richard Merk in Baguio

Merk's Bar and Bistro goes to Brewyard Bar and Grille in Baguio today, with Richard Merk performing with acclaimed keyboardist Romy Posadas. Call 443-5903 (Baguio).

'Pagdiriwang ng Mindanao'

At Festival Supermall in Alabang today, "Pagdiriwang ng Mindanao" begins at 3 p.m. with dances by the Talandig tribe of Bukidnon. At 5 p.m., the Tambuli Cultural Troupe from Tawi-Tawi performs.

Metro Manila Community Orchestra

At 4 p.m. today, the Metro Manila Community Orchestra will perform pieces by Brahms, San Pedro and Weber, to usher in the 2004 MCO Arts Festival. The featured soloist is clarinetist Jason Rivera.

'21 GRAMS'

Absorbing drama about loss and redemptive love

By Rito P. Asilo

WATTS. Vividly captures her character's despair and volatility with grit and grime.

HOW much does our soul weigh? If the human body loses 21 grams at the moment of death, where does all that mass go? Is it the soul?

Sad souls

Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu's scorching second feature, "21 Grams" follows three sad souls whose lives fatefully intertwine after an accident sets off a series of events that will change their lives forever.

Paul (Sean Penn) is an ailing math professor who's dying of a heart condition. Given one month to live unless he gets a heart donor, his wife badgers him into donating his sperm so she can have it inseminated after his death. Christina (Naomi Watts) is an ex-junkie who's now a happily married mother of two adorable girls.

Jack (the protean Benicio del Toro) is a former convicted felon who has found religion a way to escape his troubled past, but he is having a difficult time finding acceptance and trust in his community.

Traffic accident

When a fateful traffic accident involving Jack and Christina's family strikes, Paul finds himself with a new heart. Feeling grateful for his new lease on life, he gets obsessively curious about his donor's identity. His interest leads him to Christina, whose palpable sadness he is inevitably drawn to.

Meanwhile, the down-on-his-luck Jack blames religion for his misfortunes. When his priest-friend reminds him that "Jesus did not come to free us from pain; He came to give us the strength to bear it," Jack snaps back at him with Bible verses that contradict the priest's message of mercy. Succeeding scenes that lead to the film's climax don't get any lighter.

The film doesn't simply stand as an absorbing character study. It is a deeply moving examination of guilt, lust, broken faith, redemptive love and incalculable loss. Its fractured chronology, while off-putting and confusing to the inattentive filmgoer, works by isolating each scene and making it integral to the whole story, by not allowing us to predict the outcome and create perceptions derived from patterns seen in linear storytelling.

However, we have to say that the interweaving in Inarritu's trendsetting debut, "Amores Perros" (2000), was more seamless and less confusing.

Like Christopher Nolan's "Memento" or Steven Soderbergh's "Traffic," the narrative of "21 Grams" doesn't follow linear construction, and sometimes feels like a dramatic puzzle—it jumps back and forth in time.

Explosive performances

Explosive, riveting performances are another aspect of this movie to marvel at. Benicio, in a leading role that is nominated in the supporting category, would be a shoo-in for the Academy award if he didn't win an Oscar in 2001 for "Traffic."

Watts proves that her career-making performance in David Lynch's "Mulholland Drive" was no fluke. She vividly captures Christina's despair and volatility with total grit and grime.

If you think Penn, arguably the best actor of his generation, is superb in "Mystic River," he is so ferociously brilliant in "21 Grams" that even his barren stares could break your heart.

However, despite an award-worthy performance, a second nomination would have cancelled out his chances for the golden statuette, and Bill Murray's ruminative turn in "Lost in Translation" would have been a cinch.

You feel constant discomfort as you sit through the film's dark, harsh atmosphere, but "21 Grams" engages as much as it unnerves, as it conjures up thoughts and questions on life and mortality.

YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE: FEB 21 – FEB 27

CH	6:00 PM	6:30 PM	7:00 PM	7:30 PM	8:00 PM	8:30 PM	9:00 PM	9:30 PM	10:00 PM	10:30 PM	11:00 PM	11:30 PM	12:00 AM
2	Star in A Million	Magandang Gabi, Bayan	Home Along da Airport	Victim	Buttercup	Kontrobersyal	"F"	Sports Unlimited					
4	Sharon	Wansapanalaym	Tanging Ina	24	Sunday Family Cinema	Dong Puno Tonight	The Weekend News						
5	TV Patrol	Next Level Na, Game K N B?	Basta't Kasama Kita	Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas	It Might Be You	OK Fine! Whatever	Insider	The Correspondents					
7	TV Patrol	Next Level Na, Game K N B?	Basta't Kasama Kita	Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas	It Might Be You	Bida Si Mister, Bida Si Misis	Insider	Pipol					
9	TV Patrol	Next Level Na, Game K N B?	Basta't Kasama Kita	Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas	It Might Be You	Whattamen	Klasmeyts	Insider	Special Assignment				
11	TV Patrol	Next Level Na, Game K N B?	Basta't Kasama Kita	Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas	It Might Be You	Mastasla Mo Kaya	Insider	Dong Puno Live					
13	TV Patrol	Next Level Na, Game K N B?	Basta't Kasama Kita	Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas	It Might Be You	Star Cinema Presents	Insider	Private I					
2	5:00 Asian Boxing Championship	7:00 Yan Ang Pinoy	8:00 Search for the 1st Tanduay Billiards Player	9:00 Cardiff Wales World Pool Championship 2003									
4	6:00 Asian Boxing Championship	9:00 Go For Gold	11:00 Unlimited Diving										
5	6:00 Asian Boxing Championship	7:00 Ugnayan Pambansa	8:00 TeleDyaryo	10:00 The Working President	11:00 Unlimited Diving								
7	5:00 Asian Boxing Championship	7:00 Ugnayan Pambansa	8:00 TeleDyaryo	10:00 The Working President	11:00 Unlimited Diving								
9	6:00 Asian Boxing Championship	8:00 TeleDyaryo	10:00 MMDA on The Road										
11	5:00 Asian Boxing Championship	7:00 Ugnayan Pambansa	8:00 TeleDyaryo	10:00 The Working President	11:00 Unlimited Diving								
13	6:00 Asian Boxing Championship	7:00 Family Rosary Crusade	8:00 TeleDyaryo	10:00 The Working President	11:00 Family Rosary Crusade								
2	5:30 PBA Games	9:00 Sing Galing	10:00 Probe Prod Presents	11:00 Musical Specials									
4	5:30 PBA Games	9:00 Viva Cine Idols	11:00 Speed										
5	6:00 Probrema Nyo, Sagot Ko	6:30 Balitang-Balita	7:00 E R	8:00 Guiness World Records	9:00 Friends	9:30 Misadventures of Maverick and Ariel	10:00 The Big News	10:30 INQ TV	10:45 Mad TV				
7	6:00 Probrema Nyo, Sagot Ko	6:30 Balitang-Balita	7:00 Viva Box Office	9:00 Wow Mali	10:00 The Big News	10:30 INQ TV	10:45 Healthline	11:30 Working					
9	6:00 Probrema Nyo, Sagot Ko	6:30 Balitang-Balita	7:00 PBA Games	9:30 On-Air	10:00 The Big News	10:30 INQ TV	10:45 Video Hit Parade	11:30 Normal Ohio					
11	6:00 Probrema Nyo, Sagot Ko	6:30 Balitang-Balita	7:00 PBA Games	9:30 That '70s Show	10:00 The Big News	10:30 INQ TV	10:45 By Request						
13	6:00 Probrema Nyo, Sagot Ko	6:30 Balitang-Balita	7:00 PBA Games	9:30 Single	10:00 The Big News	10:30 INQ TV	10:45 Friday Box Office *Enrique Iglesias*						
2	6:15 Frontpage	7:00 Extra Challenge	7:30 Twin Hearts	8:00 Te Amo	8:30 Endless Love II	9:00 Nanto Ang Puso Ko	9:30 All Together Now	11:00 Saksi	11:30 I-Witness				
4	6:15 Frontpage	7:00 Extra Challenge	7:30 Twin Hearts	8:00 Te Amo	8:30 Endless Love II	9:00 Nanto Ang Puso Ko	9:30 Nuts Entertainment	11:00 Saksi	11:30 Jessica Soho Reports				
5	6:15 Frontpage	7:00 Extra Challenge	7:30 Twin Hearts	8:00 Te Amo	8:30 Endless Love II	9:00 Nanto Ang Puso Ko	9:30 Magpakailanman	11:00 Saksi	11:30 Debate				
7	6:15 Frontpage	7:00 Extra Challenge	7:30 Twin Hearts	8:00 Te Amo	8:30 Endless Love II	9:00 Nanto Ang Puso Ko	9:30 Bubble Gang	11:00 Saksi	11:30 Emergency				
9	6:15 Frontpage	7:00 Extra Challenge	7:30 Twin Hearts	8:00 Te Amo	8:30 Endless Love II	9:00 Nanto Ang Puso Ko	9:30 Lagot Ka, Isusumbong Kita	11:00 Saksi	11:30 I-Witness				
11	6:15 Frontpage	7:00 Extra Challenge	7:30 Twin Hearts	8:00 Te Amo	8:30 Endless Love II	9:00 Nanto Ang Puso Ko	9:30 Magpakailanman	11:00 Saksi	11:30 Debate				
13	6:15 Frontpage	7:00 Extra Challenge	7:30 Twin Hearts	8:00 Te Amo	8:30 Endless Love II	9:00 Nanto Ang Puso Ko	9:30 Bubble Gang	11:00 Saksi	11:30 Emergency				
2	6:00 Search for a Star	7:00 Imbestigador	8:00 Idol Ko Si Kap	9:30 Kakabakaba Adventures	10:30 Celebrity Turns	11:30 Flash Report	12:00 Master Showman						
4	5:30 Partners Mel & Jay	7:00 K!	8:30 Daddy Di Do Du	9:30 Sunday Night Box Office	11:20 Flash Report	11:30 Cha-Cha Lazaro Presents							
5	6:00 Tsumbong Mo Kay Tutto	7:00 7 Days	8:00 John Doe	9:00 Saturday Night Playhouse	11:00 PGMA								
7	6:00 Smack Down Wrestling	7:00 Ripley's Believe It or Not	8:00 May Puso ang Balas	9:00 Sunday's Big Event *Biography of Oscar*	11:00 URAC TV								
9	6:00 Invader Zim	6:30 Entertainment Tonight	7:00 Just for Laffs	8:00 Jag	9:00 The Agency	10:00 Newswatch Now	10:30 Sex & the City	11:00 Atelier					
11	6:00 Invader Zim	6:30 Entertainment Tonight	7:00 Ed	8:00 Ally McBeal	9:00 Specials	10:00 Newswatch Now	10:30 Sports in Focus	11:00 Global Window					
13	6:00 Invader Zim	6:30 Entertainment Tonight	7:00 Ed	8:00 Ally McBeal	9:00 Specials	10:00 Newswatch Now	10:30 Sports in Focus	11:00 Global Window					
2	5:00 PEMSEA	7:00 Global Family Series	8:00 Homecoming sa Trese	10:00 A Legacy of Heroes	11:00 Iyo ang Kalarungan								
4	6:00 Home Shopping Network	7:00 KBP Documentary	8:00 A Legacy of Heroes	9:00 Flame in the Wind	11:00 MTV	11:30 El Shaddai							
5	7:00 NBA	9:30 In This Corner	10:30 IBC News Tonite	11:00 Linawin Natin									
7	7:00 2003 Worldpool Master	9:00 Entrepinoy	10:00 Travel	10:30 IBC News Tonite	11:00 Up Close and Personal	11:30 Action Express							
9	6:00 Breaking BYK 101	10:30 IBC News Tonite	11:00 Breaking Barriers										
11	6:00 Game Channel	7:00 NBA	9:30 CelebrityDotCom	10:30 IBC News Tonite	11:00 Opinyon at Desisyon								
13	6:00 Value Vision	7:00 Asian Boxing Championship	8:00 TeleDyaryo	10:00 The Working President	11:00 Family Rosary Crusade								
2	6:00 Baywatch	7:00 Game Plan	7:30 The Amazing Race	8:30 Boston Public	9:30 Studio 23 Presents	11:30 Reel Deal							
4	6:00 Sponge Bob	6:30 Mr. Bean	7:00 Exposed	8:00 Spin City	8:30 Just Shoot Me	9:00 Will & Grace	9:30 The West Wing	10:30 Digital Tour	11:00 Crossing Over with John				
5	6:00 The Chronicle	7:00 Buffy	9:00 Charmed	10:00 News Central	10:30 Oprah	11:30 Travel Time							
7	6:00 The Chronicle	7:00 Batman Animated	7:30 Batman Beyond	8:00 Smallville	9:00 Fast Lane	10:00 News Central	10:30 Oprah	11:30 Twilight Zone					
9	6:00 The Chronicle	7:00 Batman Animated	7:30 Batman Beyond	8:00 CSI	9:00 Alias	10:00 News Central	10:30 Oprah	11:30 The Cory Quirino Show					
11	6:00 The Chronicle	7:00 Mr. Bean	7:30 Ang Boyfriend Ko	8:00 Barkada Nights	10:00 News Central	10:30 Oprah	11:30 Twilight Zone						
13	6:00 The Chronicle	7:00 X-Men Evolution	7:30 Justice League	8:00 Mutant X	9:00 The Bachelorette	10:00 News Central	10:30 Oprah	11:30 Twilight Zone					
2	6:00 Captured	6:30 Fresh Gear	7:00 Convergence	7:30 Euromaxx	8:00 Car Guys	8:30 DWTV Journal	9:00 Ang Tamang Daan	10:00 Pasugo					
4	6:00 Captured	6:30 Fresh Gear	7:00 Convergence	7:30 Euromaxx	8:00 New Yankee Workshop	8:30 DWTV Journal	9:00 Ang Tamang Daan	10:00 Ang Iglesia ni Cristo					
5	6:00 Net 25 Report	6:30 World Report Filipino Edition	7:00 Openline	7:30 Euromaxx	8:00 Convergence	8:30 DWTV Journal	9:00 Ang Tamang Daan	10:00 Pasugo					
7	6:00 Net 25 Report	6:30 World Report Filipino Edition	7:00 Openline	7:30 Euromaxx	8:00 Screen Savers Edit A	8:30 DWTV Journal	9:00 Ang Tamang Daan	10:00 Pasugo					
9	6:00 Net 25 Report	6:30 World Report Filipino Edition	7:00 Openline	7:30 Euromaxx	8:00 Fresh Gear	8:30 DWTV Journal	9:00 Ang Tamang Daan	10:00 The Message					
11	6:00 Net 25 Report	6:30 World Report Filipino Edition	7:00 Openline	7:30 Euromaxx	8:00 Screen Savers Edit B	8:30 DWTV Journal	9:00 Ang Tamang Daan	10:00 Pasugo					
13	6:00 Net 25 Report	6:30 World Report Filipino Edition	7:00 Openline	7:30 Euromaxx	8:00 Auto Motor and Sports	8:30 DWTV Journal	9:00 Ang Tamang Daan	10:00 The Message					
2	6:00 RJ Music Videos	9:00 Music Videos	10:00 Music Videos	11:00 Music Videos									
4	6:00 RJ Music Videos	9:00 Music Videos	10:00 Music Videos	11:00 Music Videos									
5	6:00 RJ Music Videos	9:00 Music Videos	10:00 Music Videos	11:00 Music Videos									
7	6:00 RJ Music Videos	9:00 Music Videos	10:00 Music Videos	11:00 Music Videos									
9	6:00 RJ Music Videos	9:00 Music Videos	10:00 Music Videos	11:00 Music Videos									
11	6:00 RJ Music Videos	9:00 Music Videos	10:00 Music Videos	11:00 Music Videos									
13	6:00 RJ Music Videos	9:00 Music Videos	10:00 Music Videos	11:00 Music Videos									

Can you tell who the farmer is in this picture?

(From L to R) Mr. Rey Vivo-entrepreneur, Mrs. Tita Sietereales-businesswoman, Mr. Dennis Topacio-bank executive, Mr. Mars Lavaro-retired university professor, Mr. Tony Dimalanta-architect, Mrs. Thiele Topacio-finance officer.

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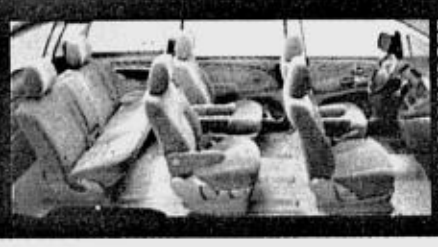

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Can you tell who the farmer is in this picture?

(From L to R) Mr. Rey Vivo-entrepreneur, Mrs. Tita Sietereales-businesswoman, Mr. Dennis Topacio-bank executive, Mr. Mars Lavaro-retired university professor, Mr. Tony Dimalanta-architect, Mrs. Thiele Topacio-finance officer.

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Magnificio, Maryo and Michiko

VIEW FINDER

Nestor U. Torre

WE join our film colleagues in congratulating Maryo delos Reyes and Violet Films for the Crystal Bear award that their movie "Magnifico" recently won at the Berlin film festival's Kinderfilmfest (best feature film for young audiences).

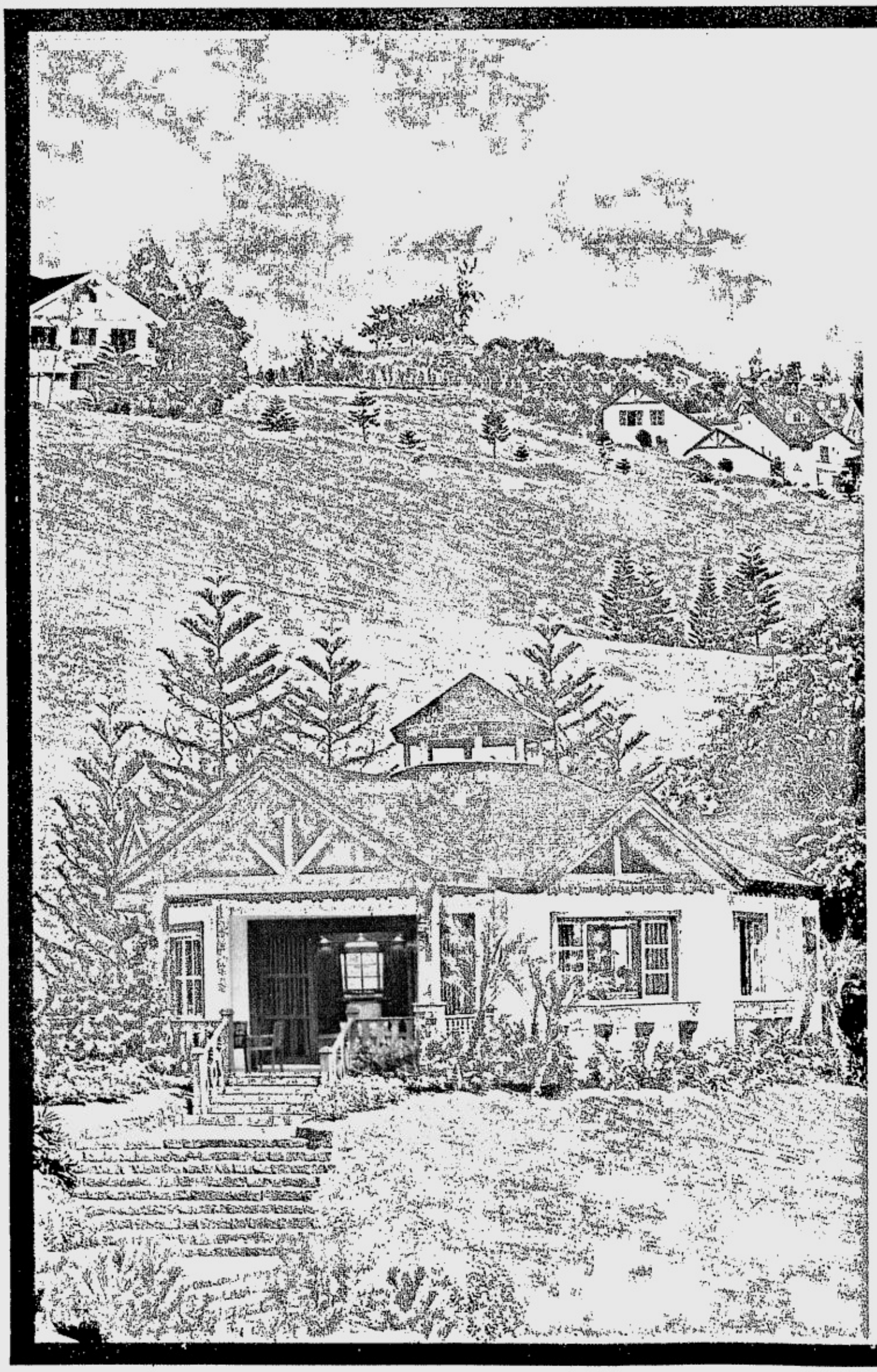
We would also like to fete the movie's screenplay writer, Michiko Yamamoto, for coming up with the film's compelling story and engaging characters.

Michiko is herself quite young, but her writing talent and sensitivity are already well-developed. When she took our screenwriting workshop at the Film Development Foundation of the Philippines (now the Film Development Council), she was one of the youngest members of the class, and yet her scripts were clearly outstanding.

In fact, when we did our 20-minute scripting exercise, hers was the only script we had read aloud by the class, and at the end of

MAGNIFICO/ D2

GIBSON. His interview on his film, "The Passion of The Christ" will be replayed on the EWTN channel.



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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2004

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Super!

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E-mail: super@inquirer.com.ph

Contributing Editor **Pam Pastor**
Creative Director **Tim Yap**

break

KC Concepcion's **Paris diary** page E2

We love page F1 **Hip Hop**

The morning after V-day page E4

Produced by TIM YAP
Photography by JAKE VERSOZA
Clothes and styling: LEMA DIAZ
(to order 09209207988)

AYALA CENTER
GLORIETTA • GREENBELT

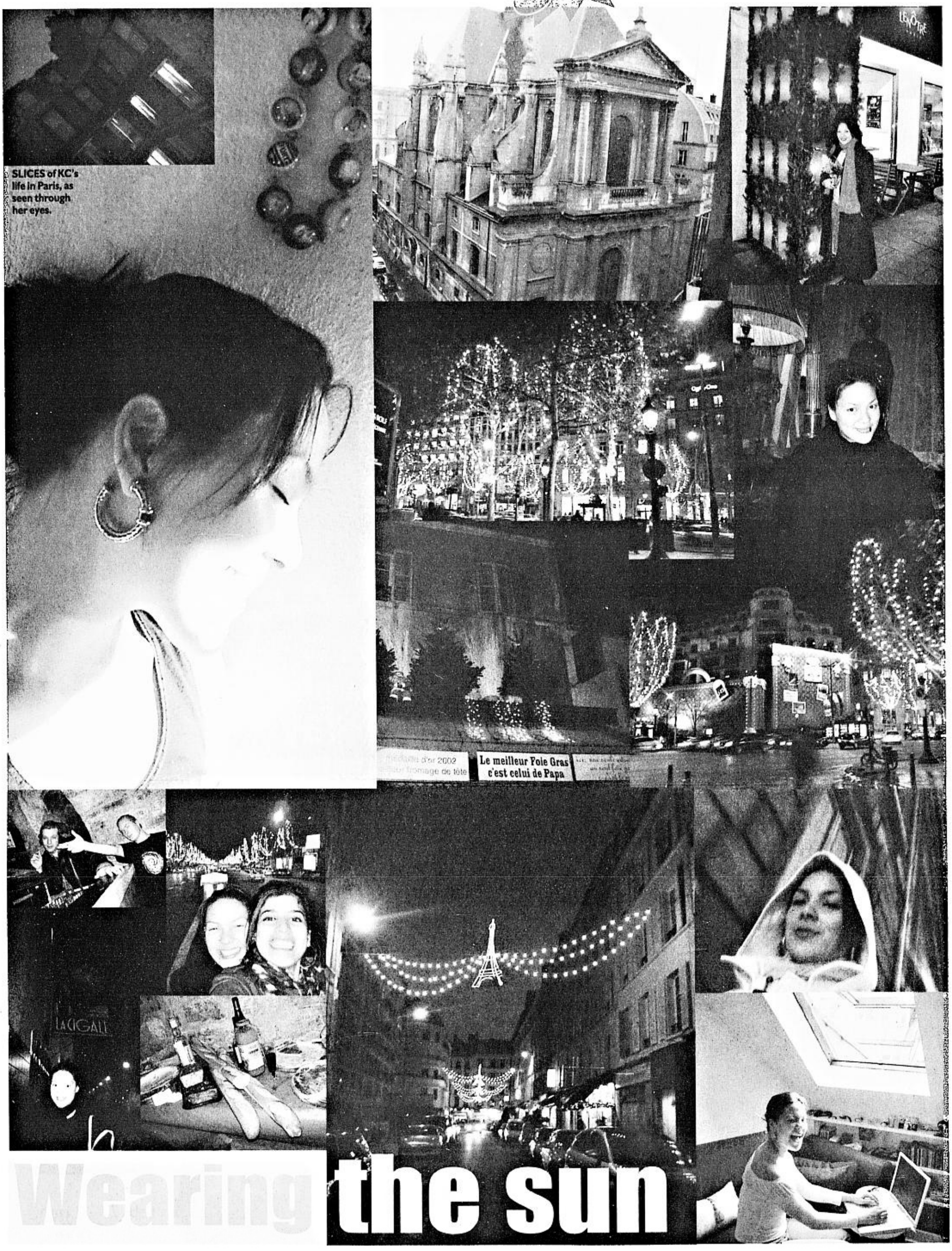
Feb. 20 - 5pm, 7pm
Feb. 21 - 11am, 3pm, 5pm, 7pm
Feb. 22 - 11am, 3pm, 5pm

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

Feb. 27 - 11am, 3pm, 6pm
Feb. 28 - 11am, 3pm, 6pm
Feb. 29 - 11am, 3pm, 6pm

AYALA CENTER CEBU

Mar. 5 - 11am, 4pm
Mar. 6 - 11am, 3pm, 5pm, 7pm
Mar. 7 - 11:30am, 3pm, 6:30pm



Wearing the sun

'Everybody wants to feel the bliss'

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KC Concepcion

THERE is something about the month of February that pulls me right into the thick of the new year. January in Paris ended with a four-day mosaic of rain, hail and snow, leaving me unable to stabilize my moods, which fluctuated daily with the indecisive weather. Warm, tropical, extremely sunny Manila welcomed me with open arms when I came for a three-week holiday. It was just what I needed.

I felt my life was on auto-pilot as I floated through the city, surrounded by all the things I considered home. This was especially important to me; the past five months had been quite overwhelming as I went through the process of what the wise like to call character-building. True independence surely is attractive, especially because nothing about it comes on a silver platter.

One bright yellow morning, after a grueling period of discovering the different aspects of living alone, a professor in one of my classes randomly mentioned the Stress Growth Dynamic. He must have been a mind-reader, and I might have been sending him some sort of quasi-negative energy from the middle row.

Essentially, the theory is: to be comfortable with what I discover about myself, I should go through a time of high stress. This refers to a period when I don't like what you are seeing, and I just can't take it.

The professor enumerated several steps in the process of shifting paradigms or perspectives: Moving offers the excitement of being transported to a new world. Next comes a phase where I drown in an odd state of mind, picking out things about a certain culture and hating them simply because they are unlike home.

This sounded so familiar. I had never been so afraid to face reality. I took comfort in being assured that people who underwent the most stress after moving to a new country, adapted best in the end. Adapting was hard, particularly because some people tried to convince me that the only way I could do it was to let go of the Philippines entirely. Nobody knows how long it takes to finally integrate with oneself, much less to a new environment. I realized that knowing where I'm from and making it a big part of who I am is liberating. I was freed by Pinay pride.

Paris has thus become more than just a nice place to live in, alone, at 18. In fact it is surreal. This is definitely a place that allows for the total absorption of art. I am proud to say that I have mastered the art of composing myself after sorting out the mail and finding a rather horrific envelope stamped by the French Government; and the art of regaining equilibrium after a tiny vacuum cleaner bursts into flames because the cheap transformer from a mysterious, unnamed store failed to work. Did I mention the art of kicking myself out of my old apartment, hoping to find another in two weeks? The best one yet is the art of living within a student budget, which, for amateurs like myself, may be a little tough at first. By the way, this leads to yet another form of art -- being broke and surviving.

I have experienced subsisting on tap water and hard bread as a result of costly irresponsibility—blowing the budget at three-storey music stores, on phone bills, papeteries, or furniture. Clearly (and sometimes literally), art can be worth a few cents or a couple of millions. I've been told that its value depends on the effect that it has on the person engaged in it. We've all heard the saying, "Charge it to experience." Well, this is one other subtle art I've been dabbling in. On my seventh month in the City of Light, and having learned quite a lot in such a short time, life has gotten sweeter.

Although the sunrise is such a typical cliche for a new beginning, new beginnings do count, and everybody craves it. As the band Aztec Camera says, everybody wants to see the sun, feel the bliss. I used to reject the saying, "No man is an island." Even the Bible would laugh at me for protesting! Three words: KC hits insanity. When I change, I take from others, often without realizing it. Whether or not we try, things shift; nothing stays the same. Life gets hard for everyone, and no matter what the obstacle is, it's good to pull through. It's cool to be humble, to know my strengths and accept that, at times, I'll just be plain, well, crap. Really. Then I will know what's so good about having the sun against my skin.

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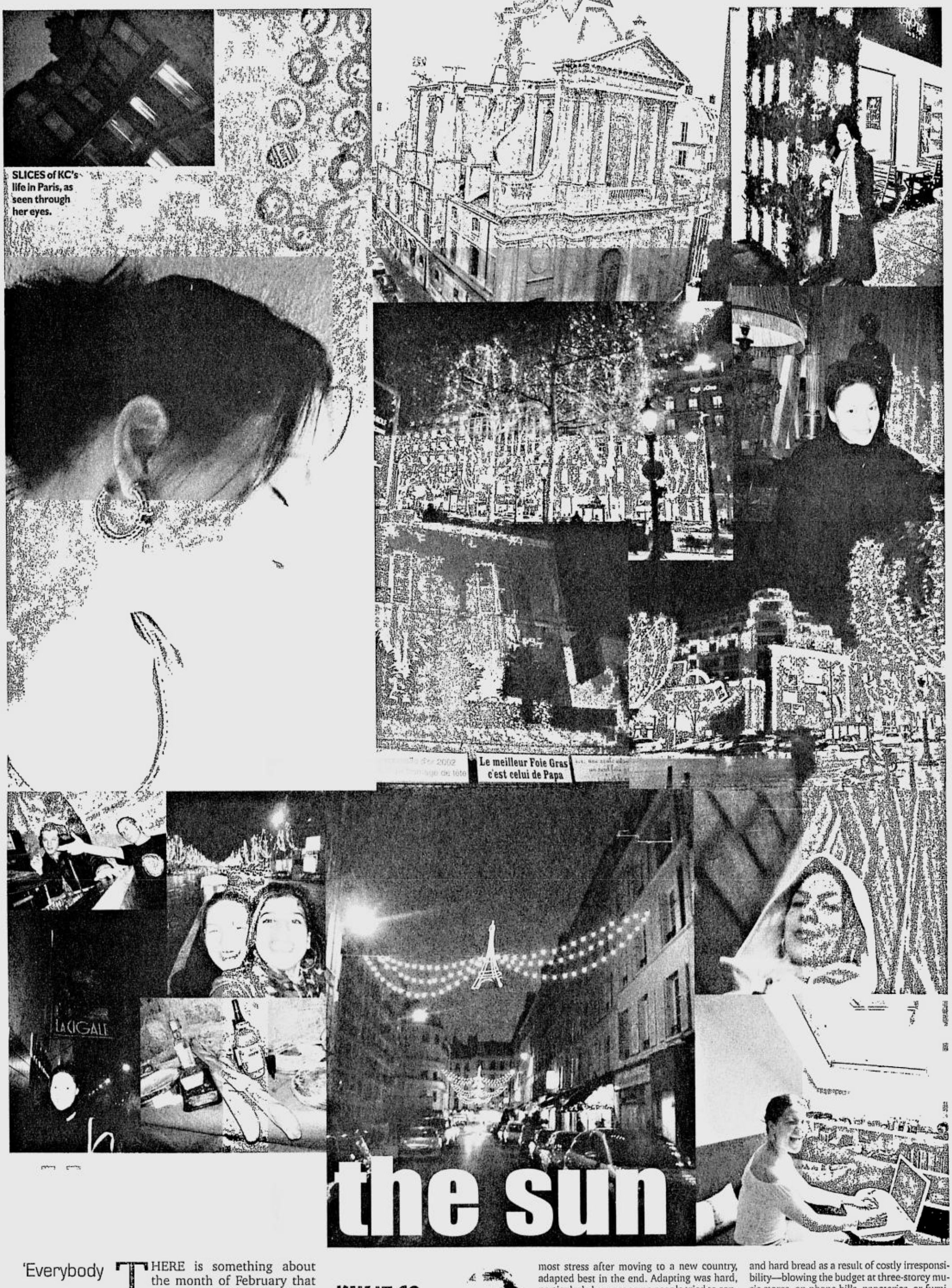

'Everybody wants to feel the bliss'

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The Sleeping Beauty

From page E4

and will begin at 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 26

Hurry up so you can catch the last staging of Liza Magtoto's Palanca award-winning Filipino play, "Agnoia." Presented by The Philippine Educational Theater Association and starring Buddy Caramat and Mylene Dizon, the play is about human relationships ("agnoia" is Greek for "state of unknowing"). At the Dulaang Rajah Sulayman, Fort Santiago, 7:30 p.m. Call 410-0822/724-9637 for details.

Later, pop 'round at Nuvo, where BBC's "Selections by The Select," will kick off at 10 p.m. The affair will feature lounge tunes chosen by Amanda Griffin, Bianca Araneta, Karen Grupp and Tina Pamintuan.

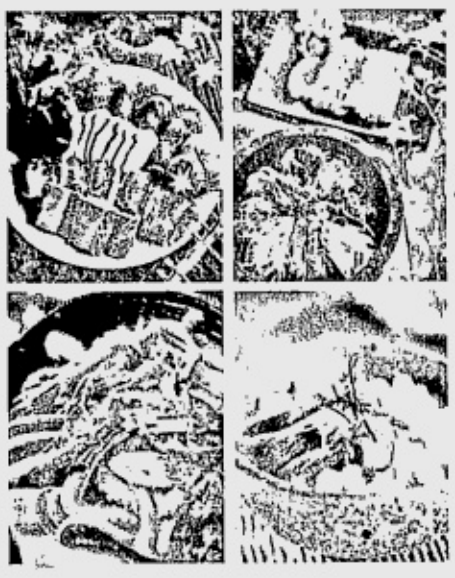
Friday, Feb. 27

We don't know for sure, but we heard about the Drag Queen Death Match at Bed? Sounds very, very interesting, in true "To Wong Foo" fashion. Imagine Chi Chi Rodriquez in the flesh—except, there will probably be *real* gay men. Have a fantastic time! Bed is along Maria Orosa St., cor. J. Nakpil St. Malate, Manila, Tel. No. 404-3662.

The Word for the Bored:

"Ewww! Isn't that the pervert?"

—Paris Hilton, when asked to pose with R. Kelly after the Grammy's. Unbeknownst to Paris, Mr. Kelly was right behind her.



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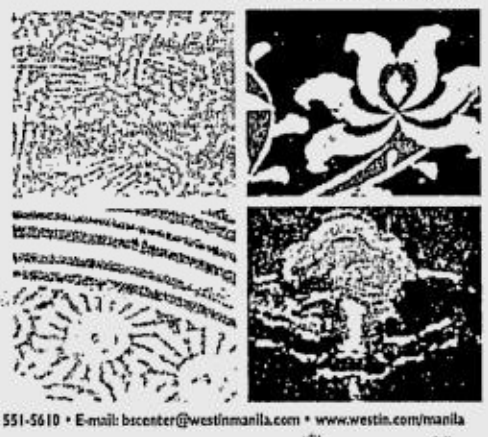

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Ambassador Cesar Bautista, Director, Equitable CardNetwork, Inc., **Judith Marie Dayrit**, Director Member Relations and Marketing, MasterCard International, **Rene Buenaventura**, President and CEO, Equitable PCI Bank, **Dennis Velasquez**, Executive Vice President and Head of Retail Banking Group, Equitable PCI Bank and **Annette Feliciano**, Chairperson of the Travel Tour Expo 2004.

Ambassador Cesar Bautista, Rene Buenaventura, Judith Marie Dayrit and Antonio Go

The strategic alliance of Equitable CardNetwork and MasterCard International aims to provide better and more innovative rewards for today's discerning frequent flier. To apply for your very own FREE Equitable Travel Card, you can call 867-7977 for more information. Plus, get a chance to win 1 of 3 trips onboard Star Cruises.

Edu Manzano with (L to R) Beth Mijares, Josie Girang, Edmund Chan, Jojo Chan, Susan Lao, Nelia Carlos, Maire Viola and Tess Silbor

With its inaugural take-off at the SM Megatrade Hall during the 11th Travel Tour Expo 2004, Equitable CardNetwork's Equitable Travel Card soars high above other travel mileage cards with its array of perks and cardholder-exclusive specials.

Dubbed as "Equitable Travel Card's Inaugural Flight", the Card's take-off confirmed Equitable CardNetwork's commitment to providing better value and service to business and leisure travelers. From "take off to touchdown", the launch cruised smoothly. Jet set guests were welcomed by **Fol Rana**, Vice President, Card Sales and Marketing, Retail, and **Cristina Balingit**, Card Sales and Marketing Manager, Retail.

The evening's host was witty **Edu Manzano**, who dressed as the flight's captain. On his flight was funny girl **Giselle Sanchez**, who brought the house down in tears of joy as she ably portrayed the role of a beleaguered traveler.

As the evening climbed to higher altitudes, the Equitable Travel Card was cleverly unveiled from the latest series of Samsonite suitcases and was capped by smoke, a confetti blast and fancy footwork by **Mel Feliciano's** dancers.

Toasting to the new addition in the Equitable Card's family were **Antonio Go**, Chairman of Equitable PCI Bank and President of Equitable CardNetwork, Inc.,

"La Turista Loca": Giselle Sanchez portrayed a beleaguered traveler.

Flying high: Fol Rana, Judith Marie Dayrit and Cristina Balingit

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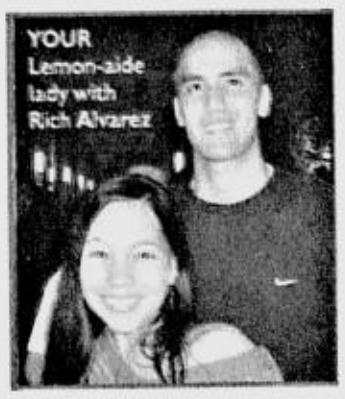
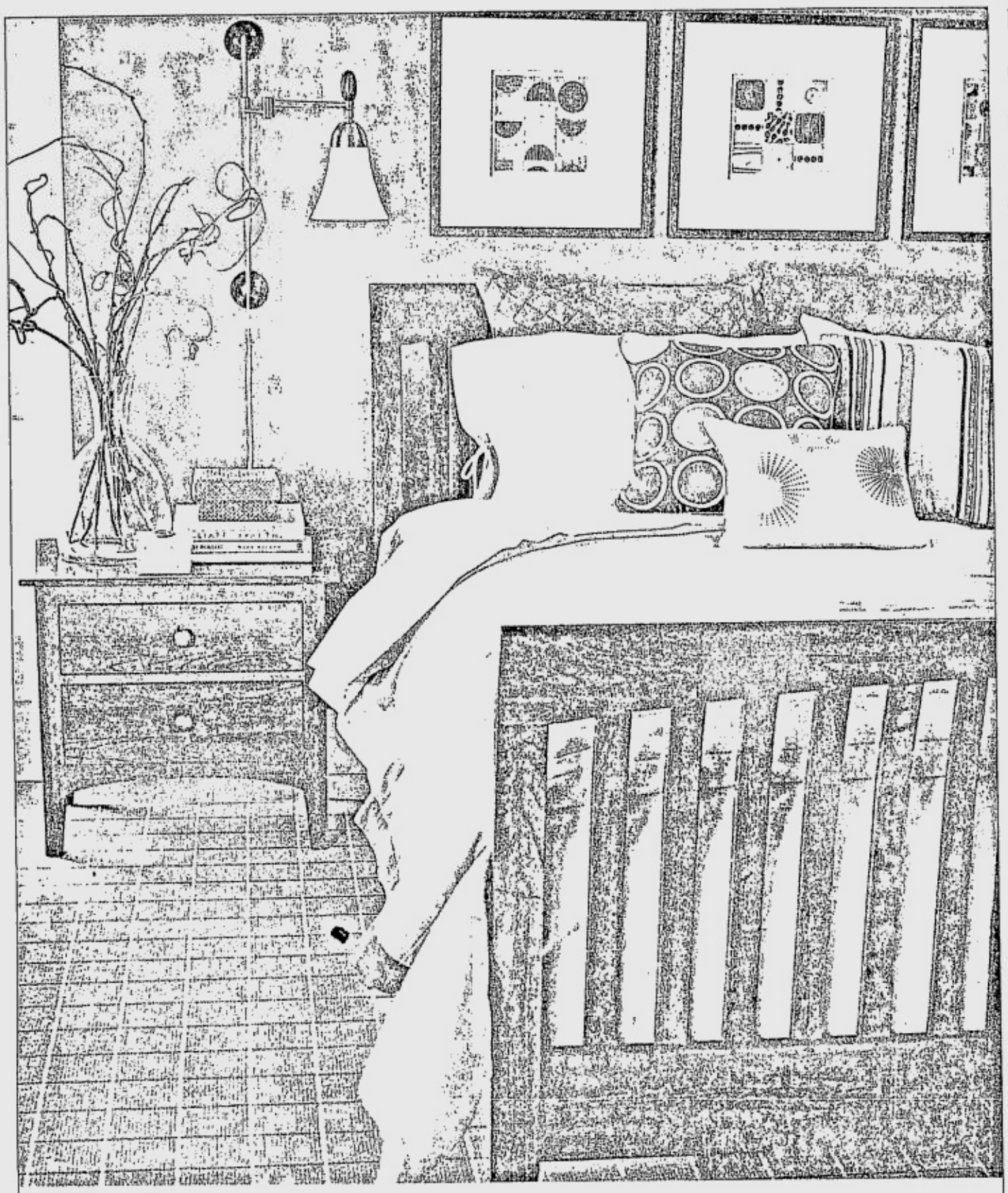


Sleeping Beauty



Lemon-aide

Giselle Segovia

CUPID'S Night saw Greenbelt appropriately filled with the customarily-festooned-in-finery usual suspects—Romeos and Juliets roaming, colliding with the occasional Othello and err, Magdalene. Buoyant from the pheromones in the air, at first I was sure I was imagining it, for how could such a thing be possible? But I steadied my gaze. The crowd finally cleared and there it was: a picture that will haunt me until a better one comes along. A heavenly lady garbed in classic black, in the midst of all the festivities around her, dozed off right smack at the center of Greenbelt 2's al fresco area. With her lips simulating a door that's slightly ajar, she was the picture of utter contentment and a worry-free life. Except the background was the typical noisy gimmick night of party animals.

It was hilarious. Her friends certainly couldn't stop laughing.

If we want more excitement, we should generate more enthusiasm

The sight led me to the following explanations/conclusions:

1) The woman was definitely exhausted. Overwork is the most logical assumption. Yet she could not pass up on a chance to spend time with her friends. They seemed very, very close—so close that, when she woke up, she just had to smile sheepishly and laugh with them. Good for her.

2) This is surely a real-life portrayal of the popular adage, "Work hard, party hard!" Only, she slept through the party part.

3) Gimmick life here has become boring and predictable. We need new ideas and innovative events, something that will both catch and sustain our attention.

4) Conversely, Pinoy partygoers should be more open to different possibilities. Our common mistake is, getting too comfortable with the usual. If we want more excitement, we should generate more enthusiasm, don't you think?

How the mind wanders! For now, here's how *you* can be occupied:

Saturday, Feb. 21

Finally! The Jason Mraz Concert! Can't wait to be swept away by his songs. No crying, please. If you missed his show last night at Dish (I did), hopefully you can still score some tickets today in Ticketworld (891-9999). At the Aliw Theater, CCP Complex. Front act by Paolo Santos, who else? For additional info (and maybe to beg), call Eventscape Manila at 561-0442.

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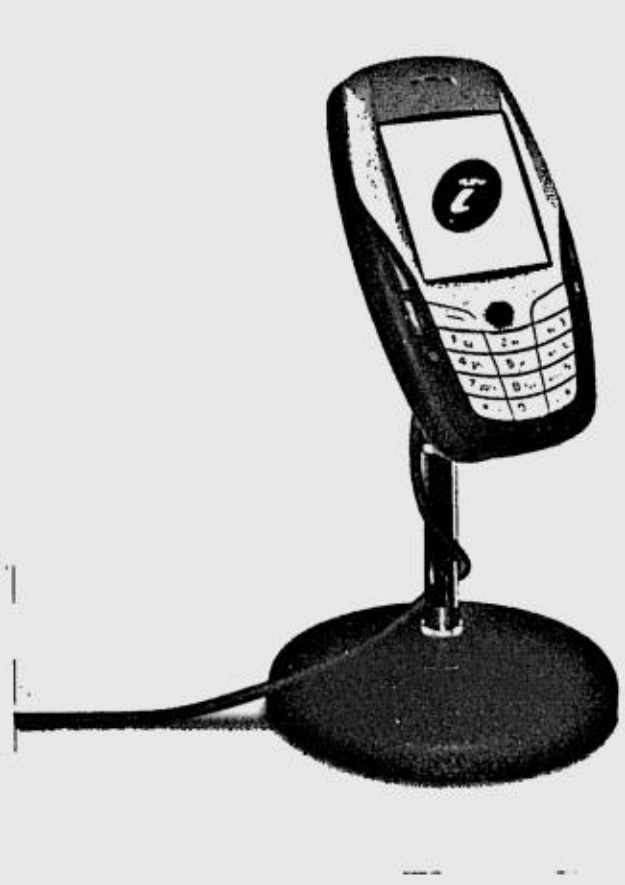

Polyphonic Tones

Download cuts from this week's polytone playlist

Polytones

TITLE	ARTIST	KEYWORDS
You Make Me Feel Brand New	Simply Red	MTONE BRANDNEW
Fallin/Butterflyz	Alicia Keys	MTONE FALLINB
Feeling This	Blink 182	MTONE FEELINGT
I Found Someone	Cher	MTONE FOUNDS
If You Come To Me	Atomic Kitten	MTONE IFUCOME
I Promise I Will	Stacie Orrico	MTONE IPROMISE
Born To Be My Baby	Bon Jovi	MTONE MYBABY
Sexed Up	Robbie Williams	MTONE SEXED
Turn Me On	Kevin Lyttle	MTONE TURNME
New Deep	John Mayer	MTONE NEWDEEP
Wheels	John Mayer	MTONE WHEELS
Come Undone Version 2	Robbie Williams	MTONE COMEUN2
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Fake	Simply Red	MTONE FAKE
Iz U	Nelly	MTONE IZU
Stand Up	Ludacris	MTONE STANDUP
The Young And The Hopeless	Good Charlotte	MTONE YOUNGAND

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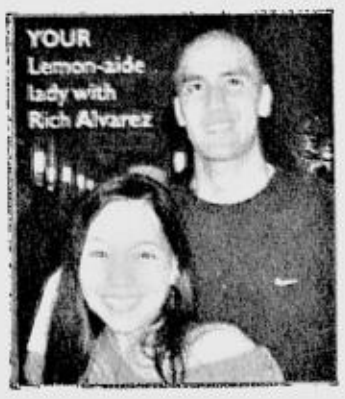
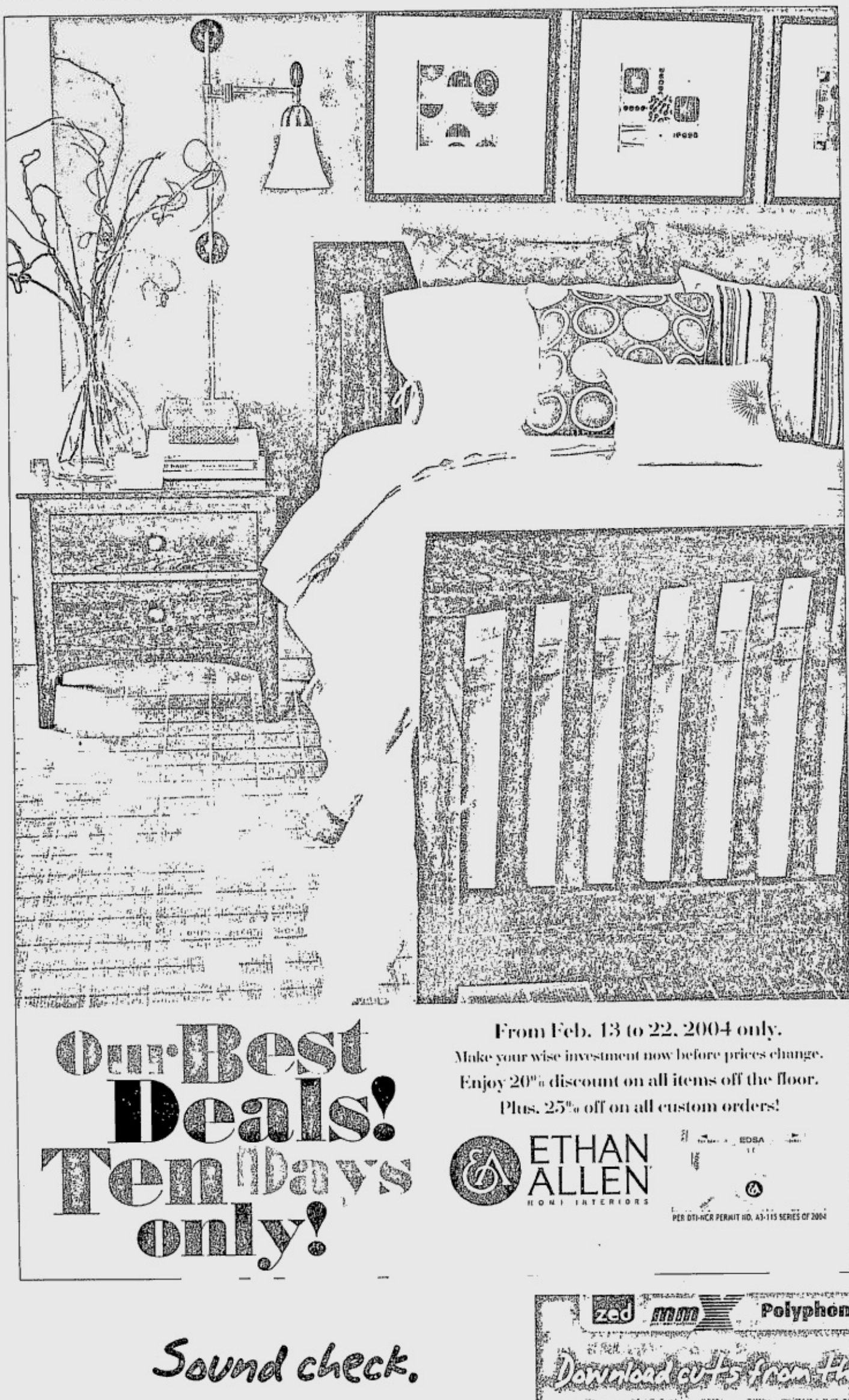


Sleeping Beauty



CUPID'S Night saw Greenbelt appropriately filled with the customarily-festooned-in-finery usual suspects—Romeos and Juliets roaming, colliding with the occasional Othello and err, Magdalene. Buoyant from the pheromones in the air, at first I was sure I was imagining it, for how could such a thing be possible? But I steadied my gaze. The crowd finally cleared and there it was: a picture that will haunt me until a better one comes along. A heavenly lady garbed in classic black, in the midst of all the festivities around her, dozed off right smack at the center of Greenbelt 2's al fresco area. With her lips simulating a door that's slightly ajar, she was the picture of utter contentment and a worry-free life. Except the background was the typical noisy gimmick night of party animals.

It was hilarious. Her friends certainly couldn't stop laughing.

Lemon-aide

Giselle Segovia

If we want more excitement, we should generate more enthusiasm

The sight led me to the following explanations/conclusions:

1) The woman was definitely exhausted. Overwork is the most logical assumption. Yet she could not pass up on a chance to spend time with her friends. They seemed very, very close—so close that, when she woke up, she just had to smile sheepishly and laugh with them. Good for her.

2) This is surely a real-life portrayal of the popular adage, "Work hard, party hard!" Only, she slept through the party part.

3) Gimmick life here has become boring and predictable. We need new ideas and innovative events, something that will both catch and sustain our attention.

4) Conversely, Pinoy partygoers should be more open to different possibilities. Our common mistake is, getting too comfortable with the usual. If we want more excitement, we should generate more enthusiasm, don't you think?

How the mind wanders! For now, here's how *you* can be occupied:

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SATURDAY Supplement

Mark Reyes
Age: 25
Origin: California
Words to live by: A day without laughter is a day wasted.
I can't go to bed without ... a thought.
Best moment: Any day without drama ... ha-ha.
To me, hip hop is ... just another word to express yourself.

MC is not shorthand for Misconception

Hip hop is what you make it, not what you copy from someone else.

By Nick Gambino
Interviews by Tim Yap
Photos by Jake Versoza

I HAVE been given a chance to define hip hop.

Just like life, love and the human soul, hip hop carries no concrete definition. You just *know* what it is and what it isn't. Maybe it can't be summed up in words. But realizing that many people in the Philippines misconstrue hip hop as purely Nelly or Ja Rule, I'll try to clear any misunderstanding and define the horizons of hip hop on the global level.

Hip hop is expression. In whatever form. But it goes beyond that. Hip hop is the people who revel in it. Who represent it. Who live the proverbial, "Keeping it real." Above all, hip hop is the people who take its elements—MC-ing (rapping), B-boying (dancing), Tagging (graffiti art), and DJing—into a deeper plane.

Hip hop refers to originators, not imitators or "biters." Hip hop is not baggy jeans, basketball jerseys and straight brimmed fitted baseball caps because that's what Fabulous wears. It's not Air Force Ones on your feet or a do-rag hugging your skull because Nelly tells you it's cool. It's donning something no one has seen before. It's Run DMC wearing Adidas shell-toes with no shoelaces because no one else did. It's Mos Def appearing in a concert wearing a suit that looks like no one else's. It's Biggie Smalls making his being "dark, black, ugly as ever" a non-issue as no one else has dared.

Hip hop is respect. Respect for every artist, performer and lover of music. While rap is a staple in hip hop, good music comes from everywhere. It's Andre3000 cutting an album that has no rap in it whatsoever. It's the Nappy Roots asking rock band P.O.D. to play guitar riffs over bars of rhymes. It's Public Enemy inviting Anthrax to drop a few lines in "Bring da Noise." Hip hop loves its elements, but it also loves to share with other genres.

Hip hop is not violence. It is not "aiming chrome to the side of your White Sox hat" or "bustin' a cap in yo' a$$." It's not staring back at the other guy that's staring hard at you. It's not rolling into a club demanding respect and getting into fights. That's gangsterism. Don't get the two confused, although many do. Hip hop is positive. It brings people together, to entertain and educate them.

That said, the hip hop scene in the Philippines needs a major overhaul. It's copying too much from the videos played on MYX and MTV—how the rappers dress, how they sound. Hip hop here needs to evolve its own

MC/ F2

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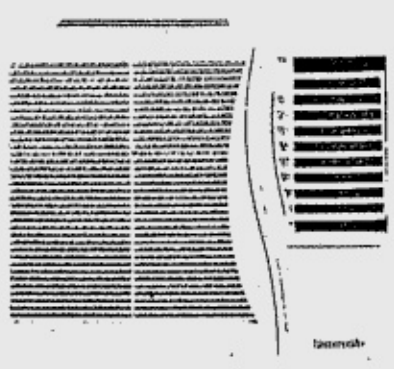
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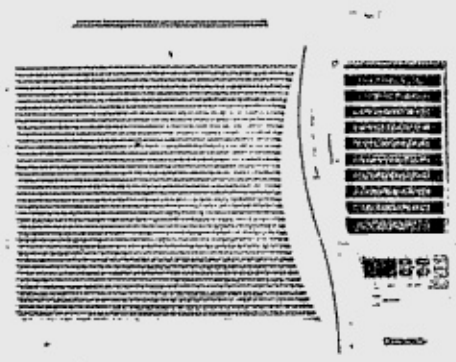
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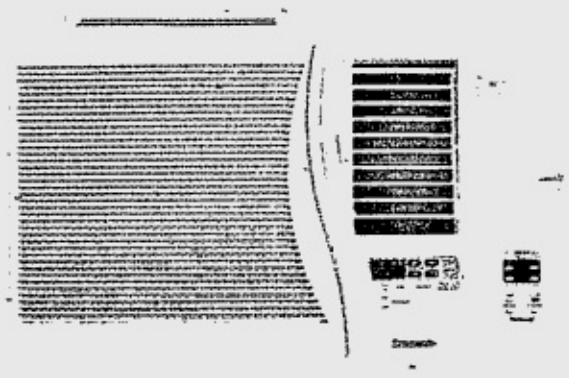
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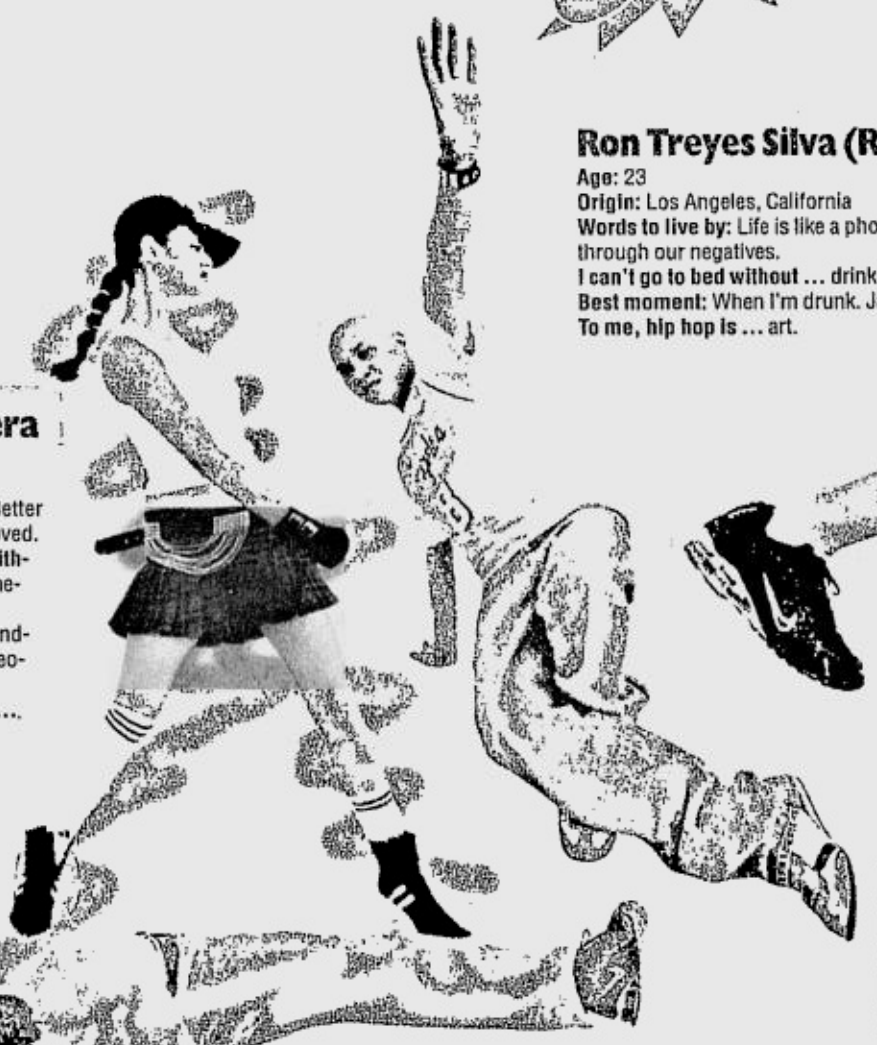
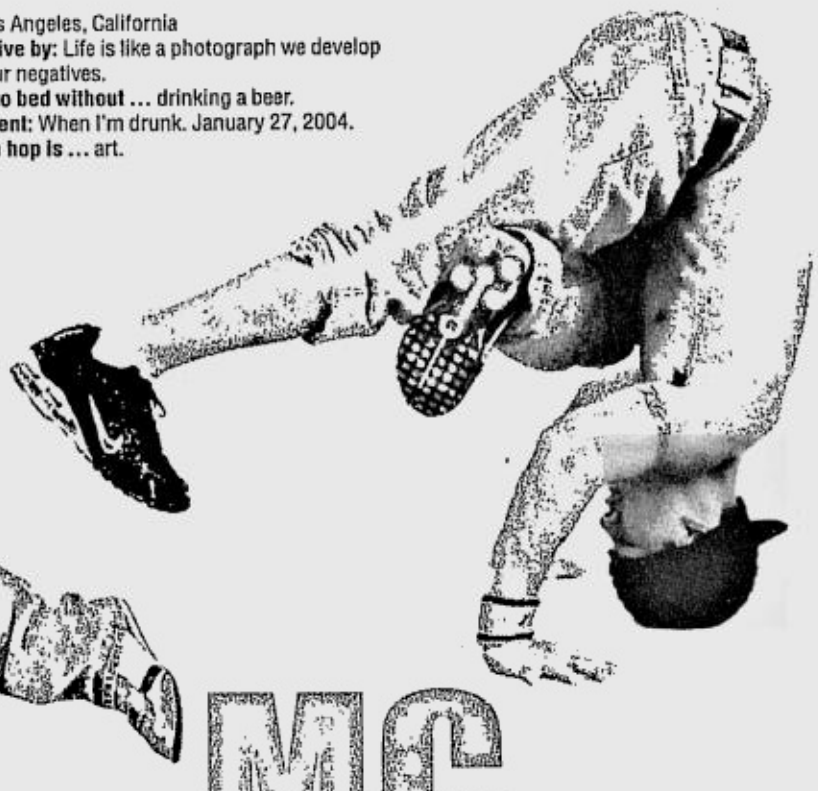
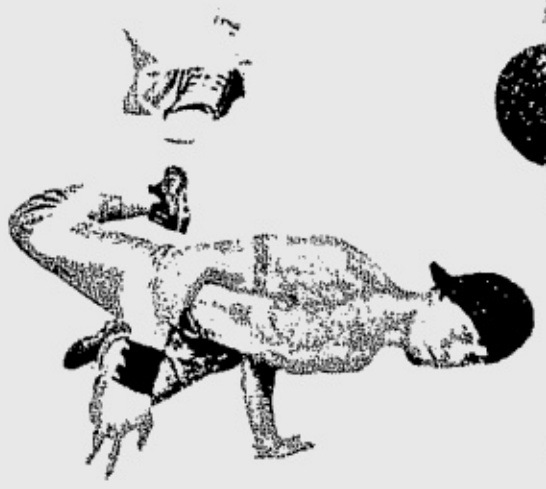
MC Misconception

Rich Herrera
Age: 22
Origin: Ohio
Words to live by: Better to be feared than loved.
I can't go to bed without ... making somebody happy.
Best moment: Spending time with the people I love.
To me, hip hop is .... respect.



Ron Treyes Silva (Ronkaholic)
Age: 23
Origin: Los Angeles, California
Words to live by: Life is like a photograph we develop through our negatives.
I can't go to bed without ... drinking a beer.
Best moment: When I'm drunk. January 27, 2004.
To me, hip hop is ... art.





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Hip hop should not be treated as a fad. It's a movement, a positive way of thought and expression. If you think you'll outgrow hip hop one day, you're involved for the wrong reasons. If you think you'll look back at hip hop and say, "What was I thinking?" then you're mistreating it. Hip hop invites you to do something you'll be proud of. It's not all-consuming. Someone who loves hip hop doesn't mean he can't love rock or classical or country. Hip hop is not a label.

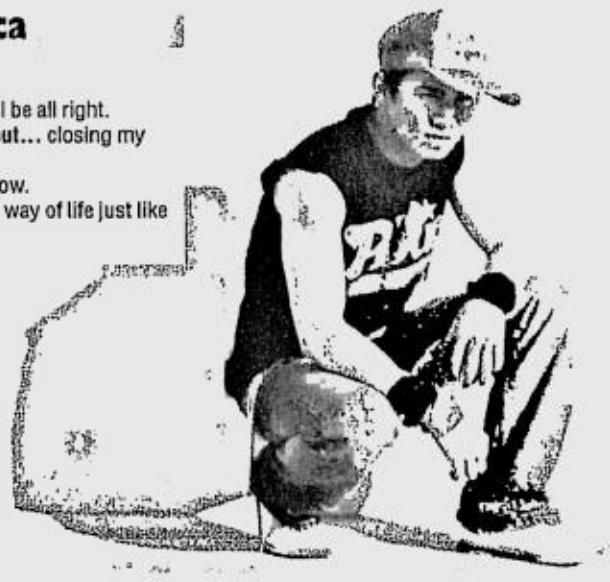
The bottom line is, hip hop is what you make it, not what you copy from someone else. Hip hop is an expression of your creativity—what's on your brain, not on someone

MC/ F4

Nick "Gambino" Santiago
Age: 24
Origin: Randolph, New Jersey
Words to live by: *Sic transit gloria mundi.*
I can't go to bed without ... saying goodnight to God.
Best moment: When girls start to make me wobble.
To me, hip hop is ... that really old guy down the street who has a million stories that you can't help but listen to.

PRODUCED BY TIM YAP
CLOTHES AND STYLING BY LEMA DIAZ

Jethro Cuenca
Age: 23
Origin: Cebu
Words to live by: It will be all right.
I can't go to bed without... closing my eyes.
Best moment: Right now.
To me, hip hop is ... a way of life just like any other.



Laurence Beau Chua
Age: 22
Origin: Toronto, Canada
Words to live by: Treat others the way you want to be treated.
I can't go to bed without ... havin' a smoke.
Best moment: The day I was born.
To me, hip hop is ... a culture. I try to define hip hop my own way, I don't let it define me.

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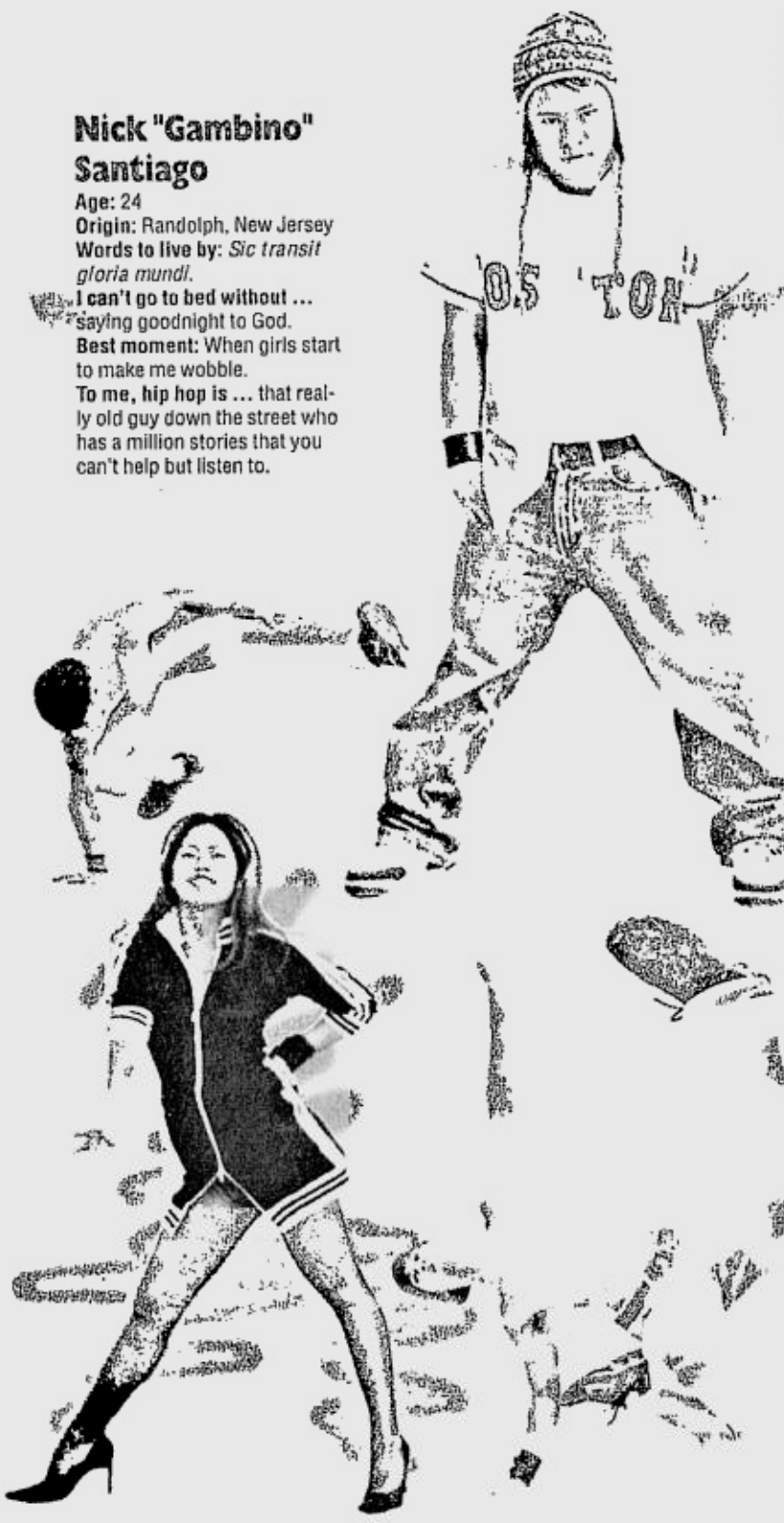

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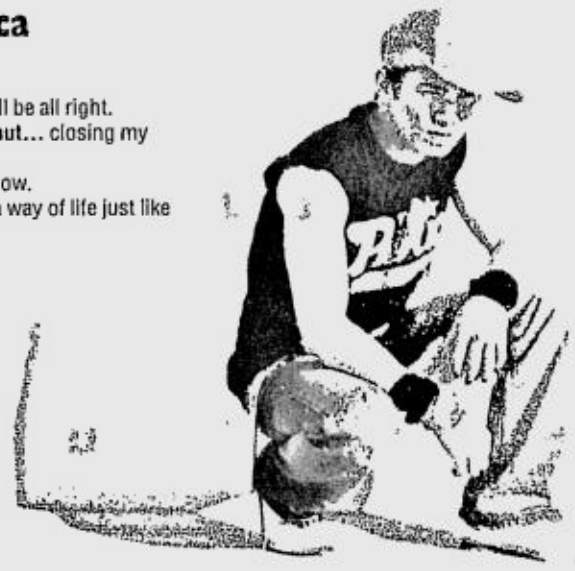

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who celebrated Close-Up Lovapalooza last Feb 13, 2004
and for beating the world record for "Most Number of Kissing Couples"!

Close-Up extends its heartfelt thanks to all those who celebrated and kissed at the Lovapalooza in Roxas Boulevard, Lovapalooza parties all over the country and to the millions who joined in the comfort of their homes. The overwhelming support and participation proved that Filipinos can unite to break a world record and make history!

We would also like to take this opportunity to apologize for any inconvenience caused given the large crowd that supported the event. We do hope that being part of this record-breaking event made every Valentine's Day truly memorable.

Finally, thank you and congratulations to all who joined Close-Up Lovapalooza!

Start collecting CLOSE-UP LOVAPALOOZA Memorabilia!

Lovapalooza Memorabilia for FREE! Hurry, while supply last.

Visit your nearest Close-Up participating supermarket outlet to redeem Close-Up Lovapalooza Memorabilia for FREE! Hurry, while supply last.

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THE SM CINEMA RPN Film Festival
Featuring The Oscar's Best Picture nominees.

See the year's finest films once again at SM Cinemas

February 18-24, 2004
SM Megamall Cinema 7 • SM Manila Cinema 7
SM Southmall Cinema 6 • SM Cebu Cinema 4

Watch the 76th Academy Awards on March 1
SM Megamall Atrium, 10am
SM City Cebu Entertainment Plaza, 10am
The Megastrip, 7pm
Fiesta Strip, 7pm

INQUIRER WAVE 93.1 WRock EPSON ASTROPLUS SM Megamall SM Cebu The Megastrip STAR

Screening Schedule for February 19

SM Megamall Cinema 7	SM Manila Cinema 7	SM Southmall Cinema 6	SM Cebu Cinema 4
Master & Commander PG13 11:30am	Master & Commander PG13 11:30am	Seabiscuit PG13 12:00nn	Mystic River R18 11:30am
Lord of the Rings 2 PG13 2:30pm	Mystic River R18 2:30pm	Mystic River R18 2:30pm	Lord of the Rings 2 PG13 2:00pm
Mystic River R18 5:30pm	Lord of the Rings 2 PG13 5:30pm	Master & Commander PG13 5:30pm	Lord of the Rings 2 PG13 5:30pm
Master & Commander PG13 8:30pm	Master & Commander PG13 8:30pm	Seabiscuit PG13 8:30pm	Master & Commander PG13 9:00pm

Watch The 76th Academy Awards on March 1, 9:30 am with replay at 7 pm on RPN 9

MC is not shorthand

From page F2

else's mind. True hip hop is when you can MC, B-boy, Tag, DJ, or just enjoy hip hop music and yet manage to not be pigeonholed as a "hip-hopper." Now, that may be tough in a country that loves to brand people and file them into categories, but hey, that's what hip hop is ultimately about—defying expectation.

Sheena Vera Cruz 1

Age: 22
Origin: Guam, USA
Words to live by: Anything worth it is worth working hard for.
I can't go to bed without ... the radio on.
Best moment: Whenever I have more than five hours of sleep.
To me, hip hop is... the beat of life.

Chelo Espina 2

Age: 23
Origin: Cebu and Los Angeles, California
Words to live by: Don't try to be a hero to someone else, be an idol to yourself first.
I can't go to bed without ... taking off my mask.
Best moment: When I had a good man, no drama with friends, no sh*t with family and no issues with myself.
To me, hip hop is ... the beat, the rhythm and the fuel of my soul.

Alice Ip 3

Age: 25
Origin: Washington, D.C,
Words to live by: Life is short, just like me!
I can't go to bed without ... thinking about my bunny.
Best moment: Meeting the TFL crew!
To me, hip hop is... being 4 real!

Lema Diaz 4

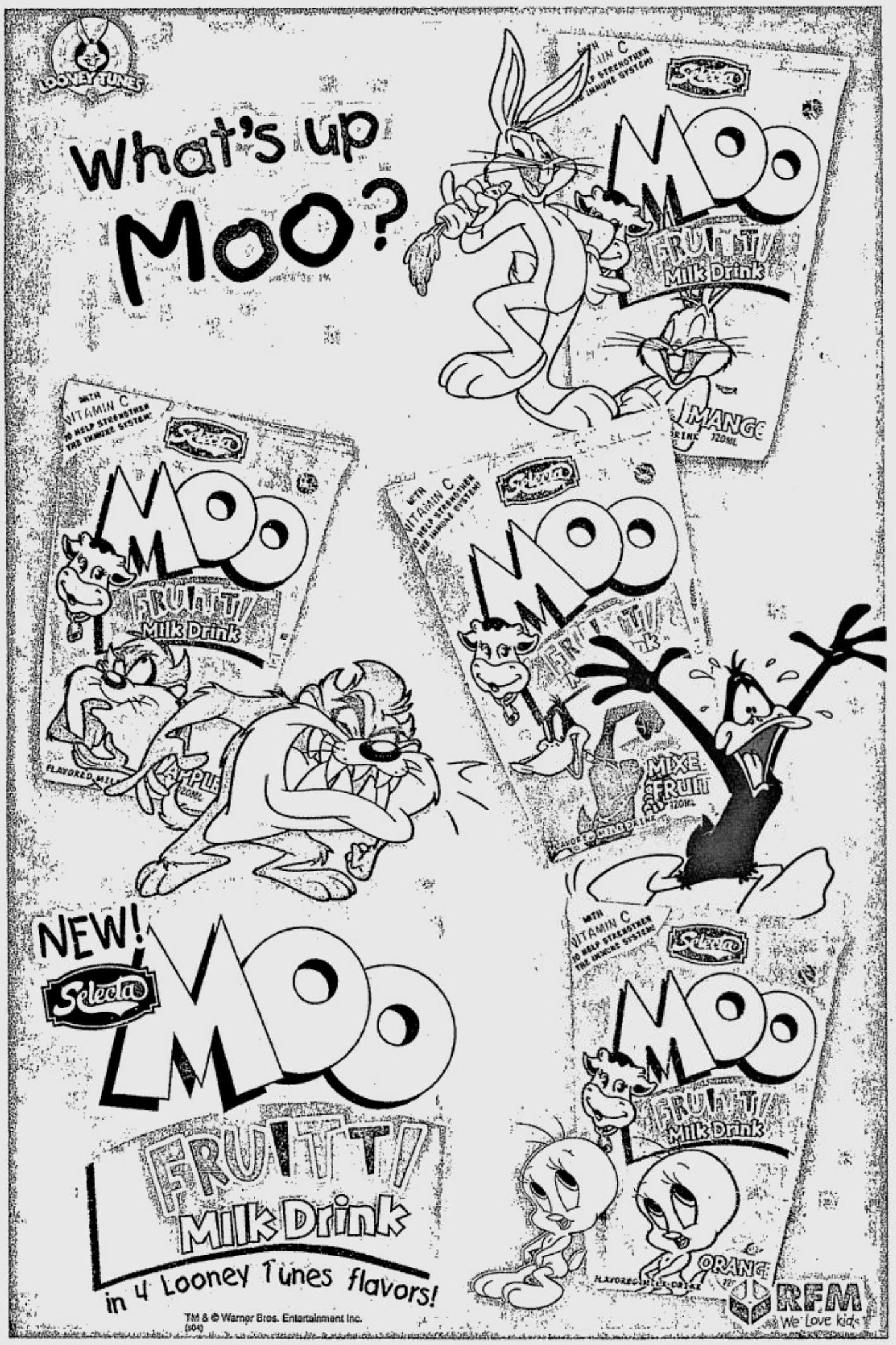
Age: 25
Origin: Philippines
Words to live by: Take chances! Can't live life thinking "What if?" or "Shoulda, coulda, woulda."
I can't go to bed without ...my slow R&B music and thanking God for blessings.
Best moment: When I'm with my baby.
To me, hip hop is ... a lifestyle.

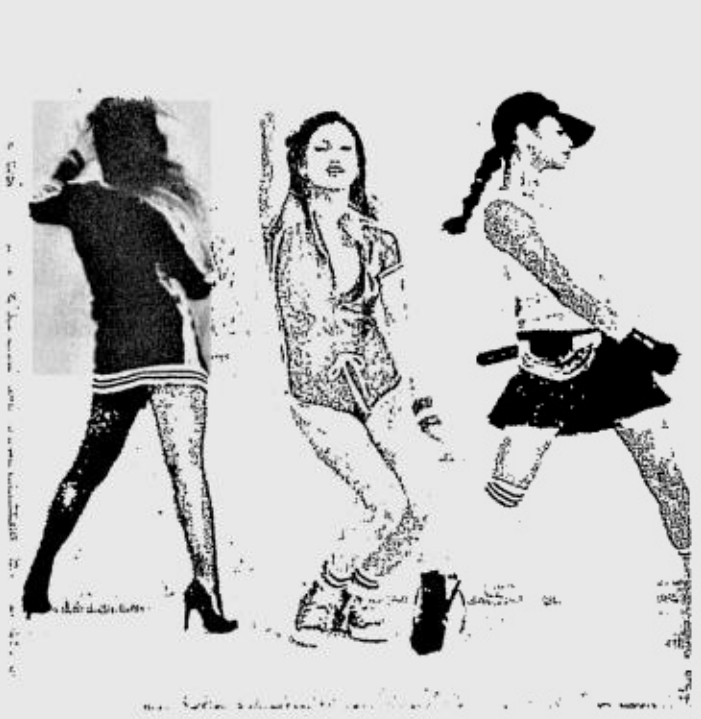
Mary Ann Sansano 5

Age: 22
Origin: Sydney, Australia/ Manila, Philippines
Words to live by: 1st Corinthians 13:4-8 / "A girl ain't about what she wears but what she knows" – India Arie
I can't go to bed without ...reflecting on my day.
Best moment: Each and every glorious day I'm alive living life with the people I love.
To me, hip hop is... like color. It's up to you which shade you like. Why choose one if you can enjoy the rainbow?

Michelle Dato 6

Age: 21
Origin: San Diego, California
Words to live by: Life's rules: assume nothing, expect little, do more, need less, smile often, dream big, laugh a lot, pray always, cry once in a while, live life.
I can't go to bed without ...washing my face.
Best moment: The silence at sunset.
To me, hip hop is ... a culture you live and feel inside. Let the beat of the music take control.





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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2004 ✦ 8 PAGES ✦ VOLUME 1, NUMBER 10

WHAT'S INSIDE:

- I am Superman — Page 2
- Different Ways to Say "I Love You" — Page 4
- Your Poetry — Page 5
- Shirley's Pets, The Lunch Box, Atomo and Weboy — Page 8

Teacher for a Day

JASMS and Bloomfield Academy students take charge of Teacher's Day and learn their own lessons about teachers and their lives

By Eline Santos

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Lesson plans guide a teacher on what topics to teach in class everyday. But after the students' orientation, how they would handle their new job was really up to them.

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Micah handled Language and Social Studies classes in the sixth grade.

Twelve-year-old Lorenz Cabanos said he enjoyed Math time with the fourth-graders.

"I like teaching different ways to solve problems," says Lorenz. "It was

Teacher/ p. 4

ABOVE: JASMS' Gelene Patricia Guevara teaches what products come from animals during fifth-grade Social Studies. INSET: Lorenz Cabanos teaches art to the fourth-graders. RUDY ESPERAS

US university unveils first robot receptionist

SHE might not be paid, but Carnegie Mellon University's newest staff member does all that a typical receptionist should: gives directions, answers the phone—even gossips about her boss.

"Valerie" is considered the world's first robot receptionist with a personality, university officials said. The blonde roboceptionist interacts with people by talking about her boss, her psychiatrist and her dream of being a lounge star.

The school-funded project is the result of a 2½-year collaboration between Carnegie Mellon's computer science and drama departments with a goal of creating a socially skilled robot that engages people.

Valerie is a drum-shaped contraption with a digitally animated face that appears on a computer display, perched in a custom-made booth at the entrance of a computer science hall.

US university/ p. 7

SIXTH-grad[illegible]era with their ball[illegible] Pauline, Paulina, Gracielle, Andre, PJ, David and Christopher. ELOT JOHNSON

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The project aims to develop friendship and cultural exchange between students of Japan and the Philippines.

It started when teachers from Notre Dame visited St. Joseph in 2002. They liked what they saw and after a year of negotiations, the video conference project was launched.

The very first time they had a video conference in December, St. Joseph prepared presentations to show the Japanese students how we celebrate Christmas.

Four-hour Call

Last Feb. 12, their four-hour phone call was the Japanese fifth-graders' practice in conversational English with fifth-graders from St. Joseph.

Taking turns at the camera, a Japanese student would say their name and ask one question. A partner student from St. Joseph would reply and then ask a related question.

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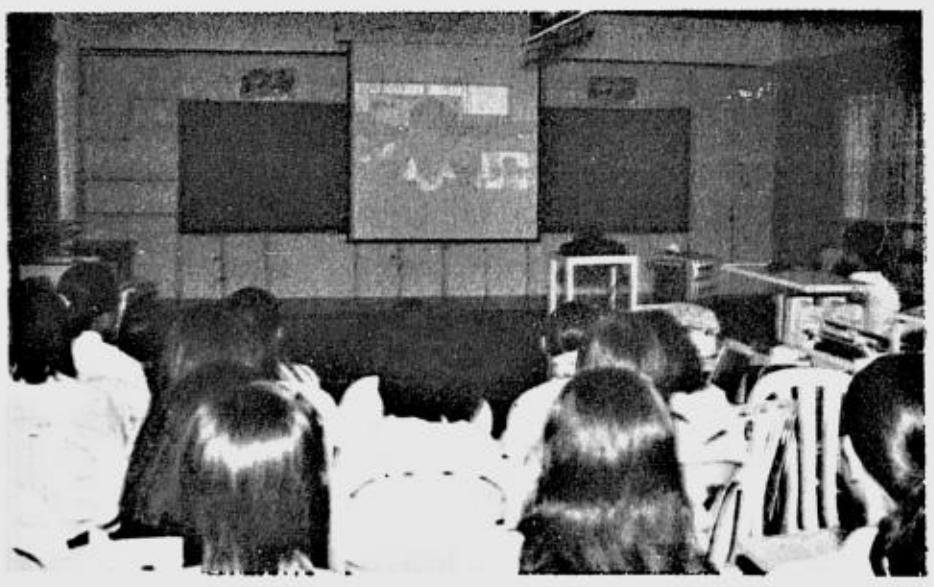
Moshi/ p. 8



FIFTH-GRADERS from St. Joseph try to think of interesting questions as they wait their turn to chat with Japanese students. RUDY ESPERAS

UP, UP AND AWAY!

Fifth and Sixth graders in Elizabeth Seton School launch hot air balloons for their Science class project

HOT air balloons made from Japanese paper floated over Elizabeth Seton School in Las Piñas during the grade school's science fair.

Fifth and sixth-graders put their respective balloons together for two days during their science class.

The hot air balloon contest is done every year as a highlight of the science fair.

Some balloons caught fire on the ground while others burned in mid-air. A few made it over the school's rooftop.

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One high flyer was Group 4 of section Mozart led by 11-year-old Kristina Barayoga. Their group took first place among the fifth-graders.

Mozart was unanimous in saying their secret was teamwork.

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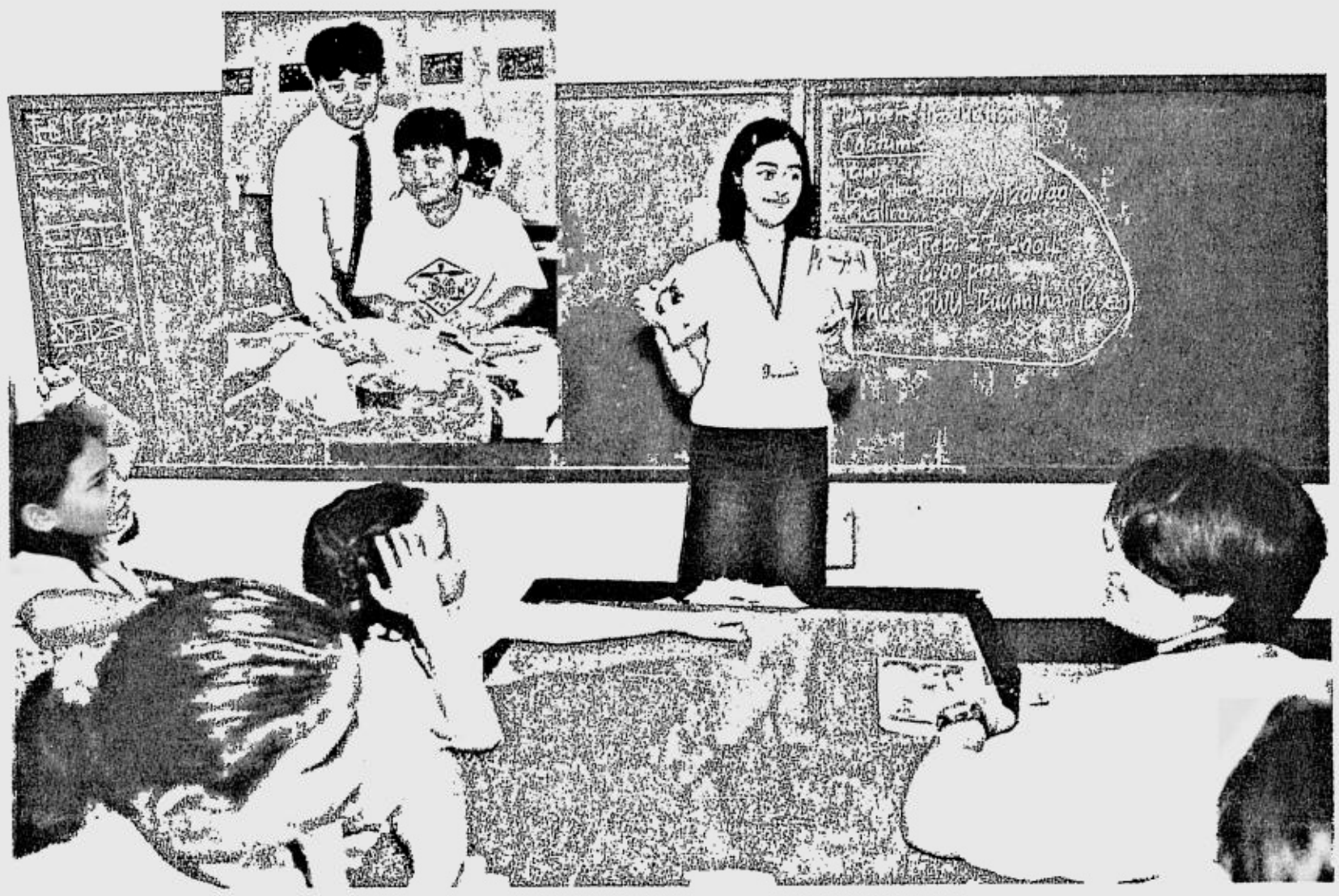

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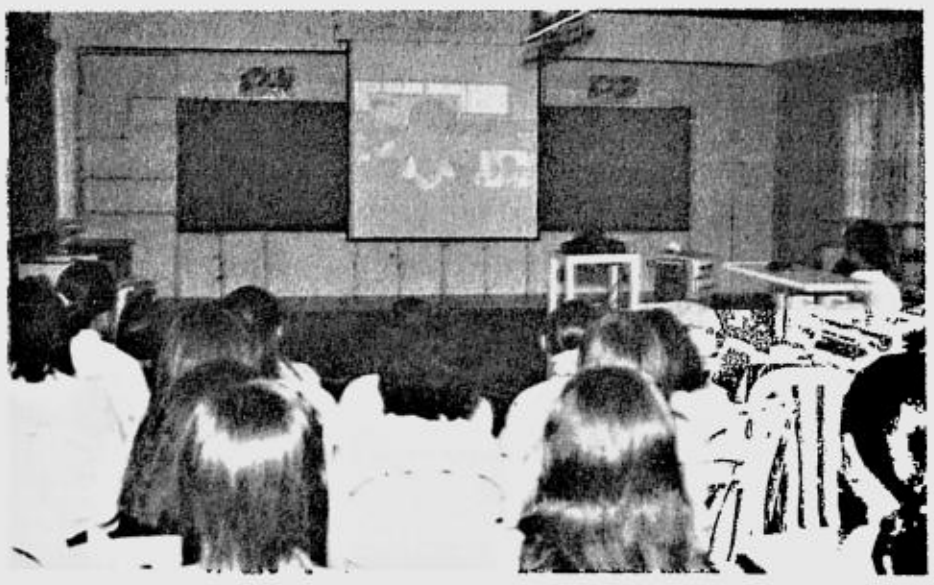

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Child-Friendly Awardee
UNICEF-PPI CHILD-FRIENDLY NEWSPAPER AND JOURNALIST AWARDS

2003 Best Children's Newspaper Awardee

The Month of Luv

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A Boy Scout's Thoughts

By John Edison L. Regalado
Sacred Heart College
Lucena City Council

I AM more than Superman, I am a Boy Scout.

I had my first taste of scouting when I was in Grade 3. As a KAB scout, I remember that I was so amused by the line formations we did: the regular rhythmic sound we created when marching; the synchronized movements we performed; our yellow shirts adorned by green neckerchiefs; and the green shorts we all wore.

The experiences were so pride-boosting that the images of my younger scouting years are still vivid in my mind.

Since then, I have lived my past 7 years as a scout. I learned a lot from my exposure that scout ideals are imbibed in my system.

A scout's reverence has made me a God-fearing person. I have recognized that nothing is attained without God's intercession. I see His image in every individual I have rendered service to.

Being a scout has taught me to be trustworthy and responsible for taking care of my troop.

A scout's loyalty has given me the commitment and dedication I need to gain the trust of other people.

A scout's helpfulness has shown me the way of service. I know I can never be Superman but I can be a man of great sensibility and sensitivity.

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A scout's obedience has taught me to recognize what I can learn from my elders.

A scout's cheerfulness has showered my life with optimism.

A scout's thriftiness has changed my outlook of money. I started to be resourceful so as to make it sure that every centavo I have is well-spent.

A scout's bravery is a badge of nobility. I have never been in a situation wherein I had to render service in life-threatening situations. But I have exhibited bravery in everything I do.

A scout's cleanliness has taught me to carry myself with pride.

Therefore, if you would ask me who I am, I would answer simply this way, " I am Scout John Edison L. Regalado. The designation "scout" before my name answers all your queries about me.

Yes, I am more than Superman. I am a Boy Scout. I am for real.

Appreciation

By Lara Cristy S. Lava
13 years old
University of the Philippines in the Visayas
Iloilo City

SOMETIME ago, I thought there was nothing really great about me. Yes, I learned sometimes from books. Still, I never felt that I was especially clever.

For example, I don't really understand Einstein's $E=mc^2$ formula. What is the whole point in learning that?

***

Some kids want to go to school but can't afford to. Yet I suppose it isn't their fault that they are poor. I admit that I am better off than kids like these. But there is hope for all. Some people who had no money to go to school in the past, who couldn't even buy pens and paper, are now successful businessmen. They persevered.

I believe there is still hope for our country.

I am more confident now. My sisters made me see my worth. They taught me how to love myself.

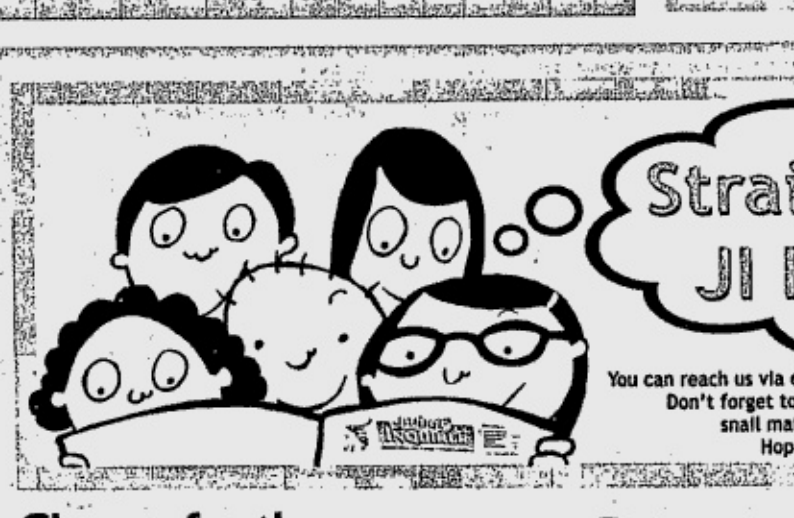
***

Here is my favorite quote from the Desiderata: "You are a child of the universe, no less than the trees and the stars; you have a right to be here, and whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should."

I have a right to be here. I believe it.

Sound Familiar ?

Write down your thoughts now and send them to JI. Who knows, you might just get published!



Change for the better

EVERY night, before I go to bed, I always pray to God, as I often can, that peace and unity will reign over our mother earth and that He may guide our families.

Then, I see visions of my family and I caring for each other. I, with my family's support, can stand in this world full of dangers. Of course, there are times when I face sorrows and hardships in my family.

Sometimes, I get scolded by my parents for bieng a careless and irresponsible son. Or maybe my siblings and I fight about silly things like food, or maybe the TV.

These things always happen to a lot of families. But we kids must learn and make up for these mistakes. Who knows the bullies of today will grow up to be trustworthy, successful and kind men tomorrow.

It's never too late to become good. Maybe you will be someone like Ninoy Aquino who believed that there can be no victors in a bloody revolution. Or maybe someone like Jose Rizal who never stopped believing that each one of us has his or her rights.

To become a good person, you will be needing help from your family. For without them who loved you from your birth till today, you might fall and fall and fall all over again and maybe end up in the streets. We should start now to change for no one knows except God where you will end up in the future.—**LOUIE JOSEPH B. MIRANDA**, 12, *luidole@yahoo.com*

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SOMETIME ago, I thought there was nothing really great about me. Yes, I learned sometimes from books. Still, I never felt that I was especially clever.

For example, I don't really understand Einstein's $E=mc^2$ formula. What is the whole point in learning that?

***

Some kids want to go to school but can't afford to. Yet I suppose it isn't their fault that they are poor. I admit that I am better off than kids like these. But there is hope for all. Some people who had no money to go to school in the past, who couldn't even buy pens and paper, are now successful businessmen. They persevered.

I believe there is still hope for our country.

I am more confident now. My sisters made me see my worth. They taught me how to love myself.

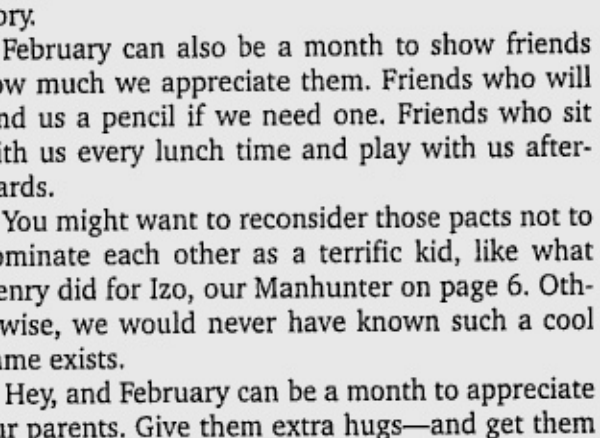
***

Here is my favorite quote from the Desiderata: "You are a child of the universe, no less than the trees and the stars; you have a right to be here, and whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should."

I have a right to be here. I believe it.

Sound off...

Write down your thoughts now and send them to JI. Who knows, you might just get published!



You can reach us via e-mail! Our address is ji@inquirer.com.ph
Don't forget to include your complete name, age, snail mail address and phone number.
Hope to hear from you soon!

Change for the better

EVERY night, before I go to bed, I always pray to God, as I often can, that peace and unity will reign over our mother earth and that He may guide our families.

Then, I see visions of my family and I caring for each other. I, with my family's support, can stand in this world full of dangers. Of course, there are times when I face sorrows and hardships in my family.

Sometimes, I get scolded by my parents for bieng a careless and irresponsible son. Or maybe my siblings and I fight about silly things like food, or maybe the TV.

These things always happen to a lot of families. But we kids must learn and make up for these mistakes. Who knows the bullies of today will grow up to be trustworthy, successful and kind men tomorrow.

It's never too late to become good. Maybe you will be someone like Ninoy Aquino who believed that there can be no victors in a bloody revolution. Or maybe someone like Jose Rizal who never stopped believing that each one of us has his or her rights.

To become a good person, you will be needing help from your family. For without them who loved you from your birth till today, you might fall and fall and fall all over again and maybe end up in the streets. We should start now to change for no one knows except God where you will end up in the future.—**LOUIE JOSEPH B. MIRANDA**, 12, *luidole@yahoo.com*

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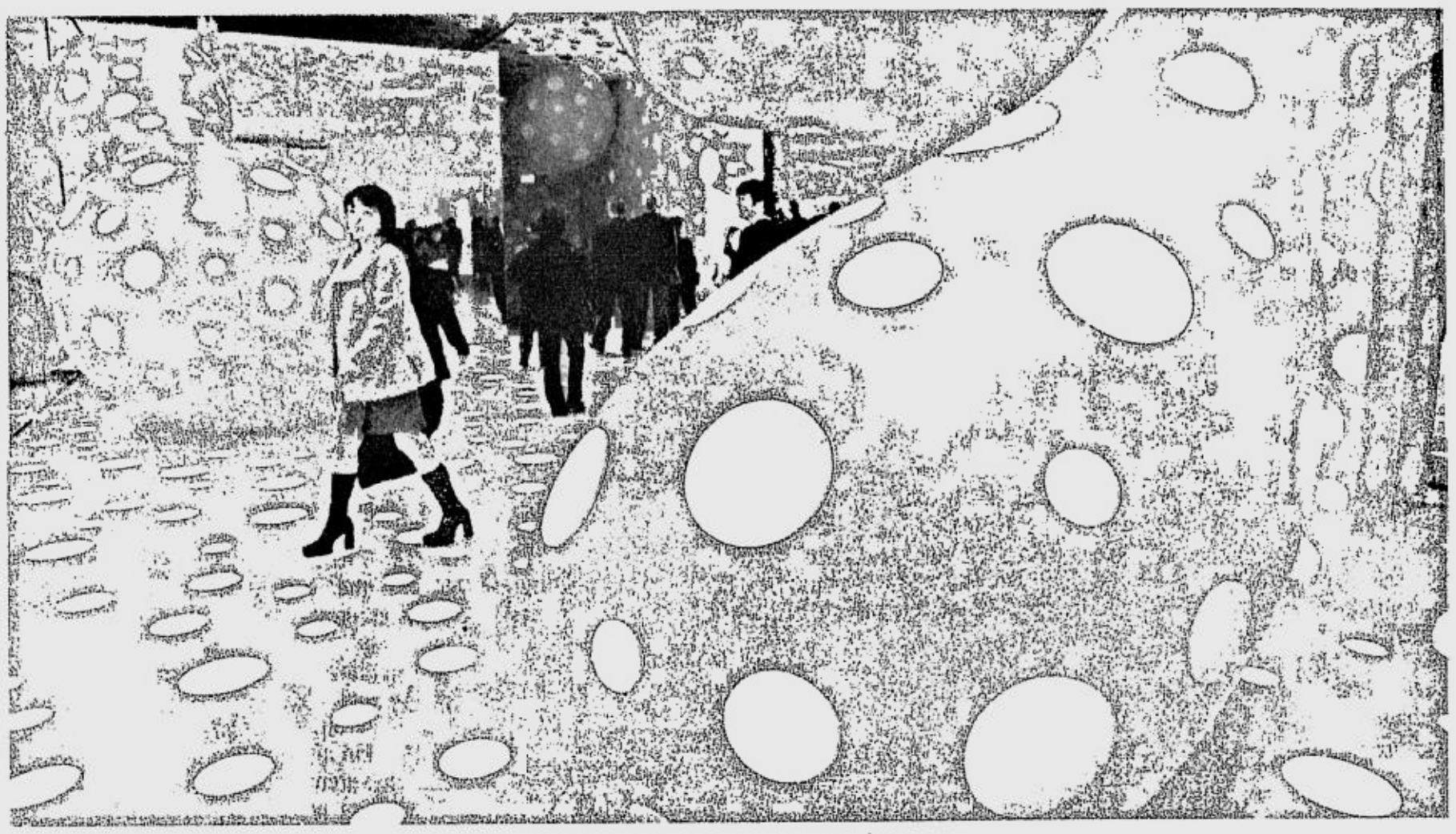
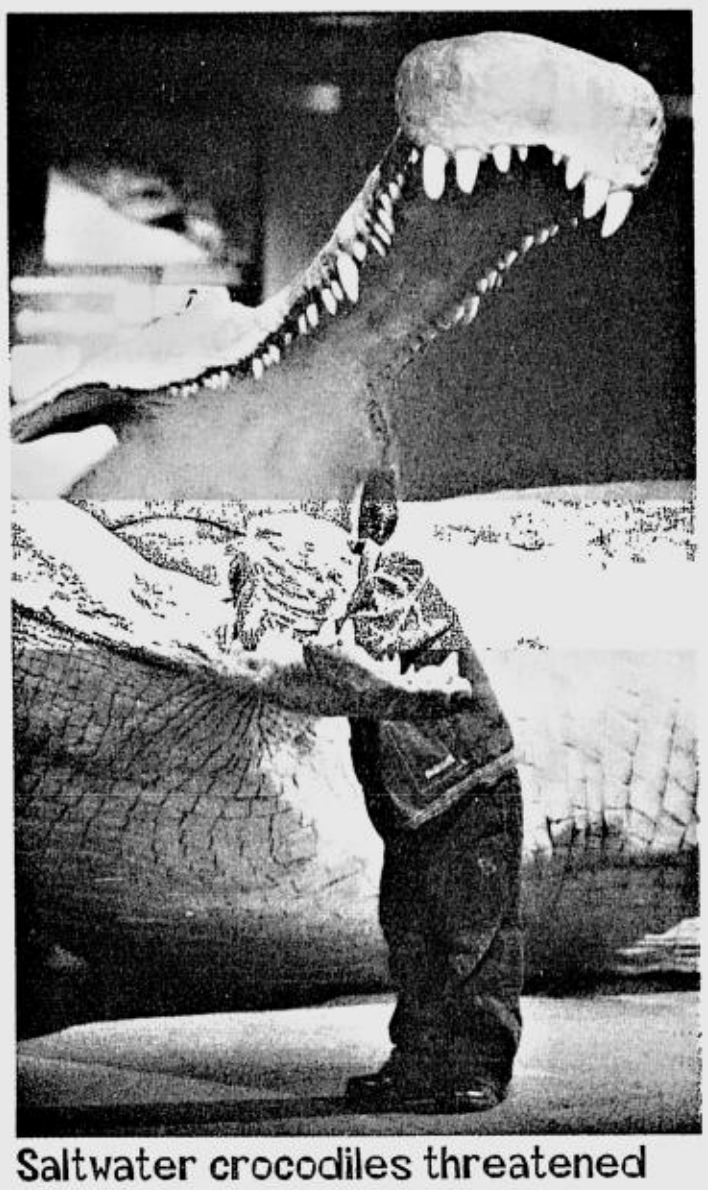


Enter Kusamatrix!

VISITORS wander through a cartoon-like landscape called "Kusamatrix." It's not another universe. It's an artwork which incorprates polka-dot paintings, balloons and mirrors, by Japanese contemporary artist Yayoi Kusama at the Mori Art Museum in Tokyo. The exhibition will last until May 9. *AFP*



Saltwater crocodiles threatened

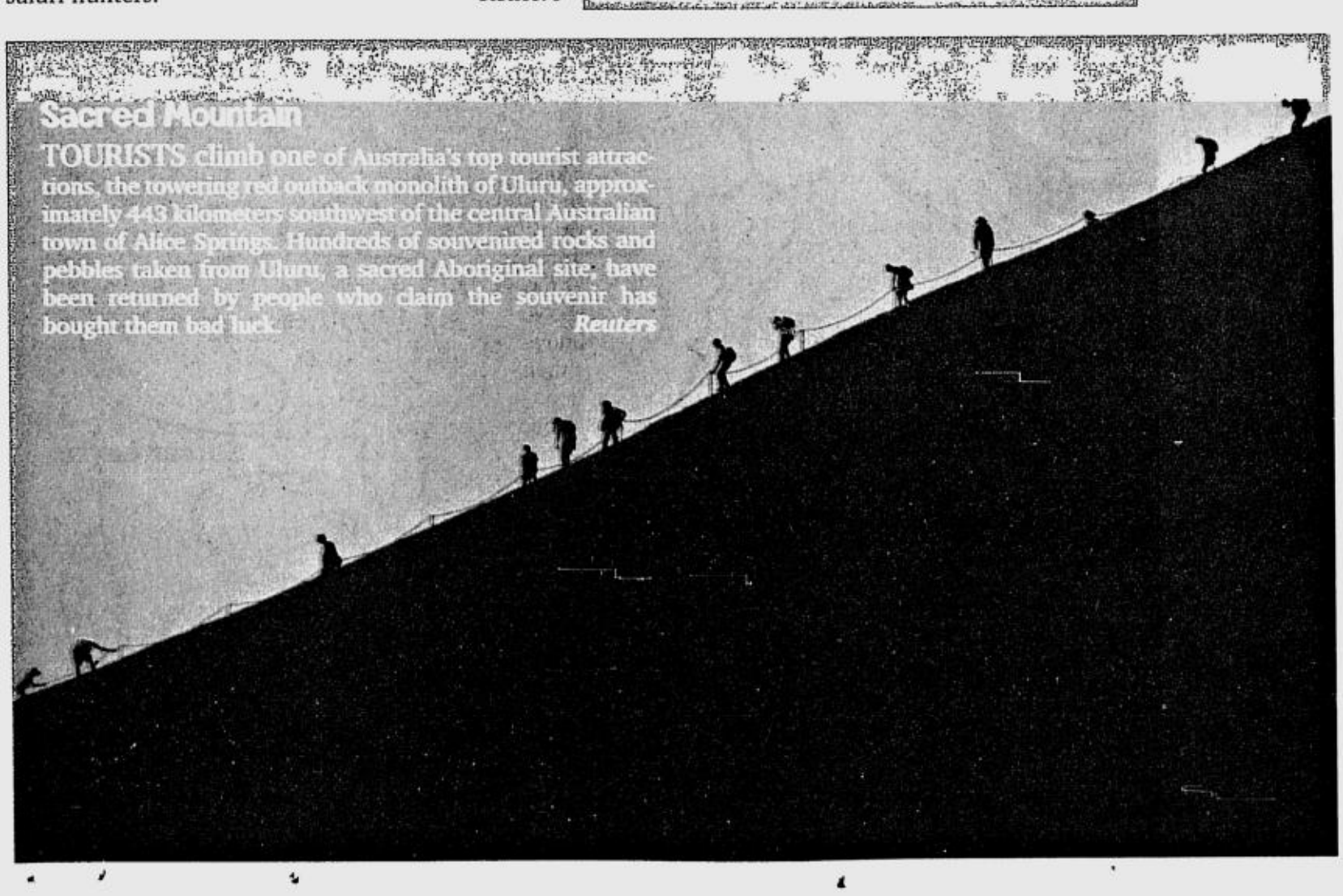
SAM Kotzur, 3, from Sydney rests on a model of a giant crocodile at an exhibition at the Australian Museum in Sydney. A controversial proposal by Australia's Parks and Wildlife Commission could see 25 saltwater crocodiles killed each year by professional safari hunters. *Reuters*

Korean Fried Chicken Sport Colors

WOMEN show colored-drumstick chickens during a campaign to boost consumption of chickens at a department store in Seoul. South Korea has culled 3.5 million poultry since the country's first outbreak of the highly contagious bird flu was confirmed December last year. There has been no case of human infection in the country. *AFP*

My Nebula is a Red, Red Rose

THIS NASA Spitzer Space Telescope image shows a cluster of newborn stars. These bright young stars are found in a rosebud-shaped (and rose-colored) nebulosity known as NGC 7129. The star cluster and its associated nebula are located at a distance of 3,300 light-years in the constellation Cepheus. *AFP*

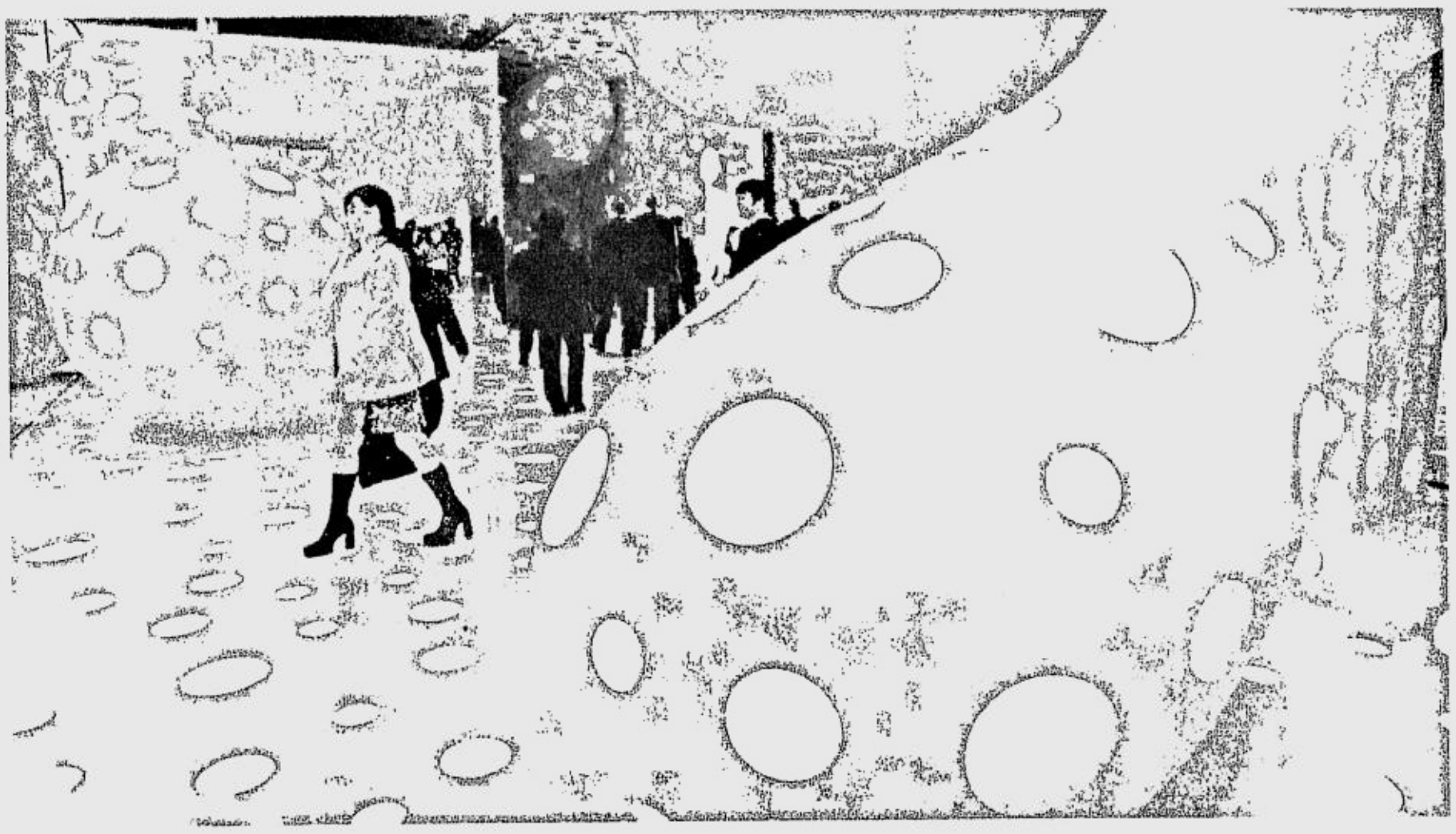


Sacred Mountain

TOURISTS climb one of Australia's top tourist attractions, the towering red outback monolith of Uluru, approximately 443 kilometers southwest of the central Australian town of Alice Springs. Hundreds of souvenired rocks and pebbles taken from Uluru, a sacred Aboriginal site, have been returned by people who claim the souvenir has bought them bad luck. *Reuters*

Bush Dog Faces Extinction

DARLENE, a bush dog (*Speothos venaticus*) born Dec. 27 last year is seen at the zoo in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The stocky and webbed-feet bush dog, a very rare canid that lives from Central America to northern South America, is thought to face extinction. In Brazil there are only 27 specimen living in captivity. *AFP*



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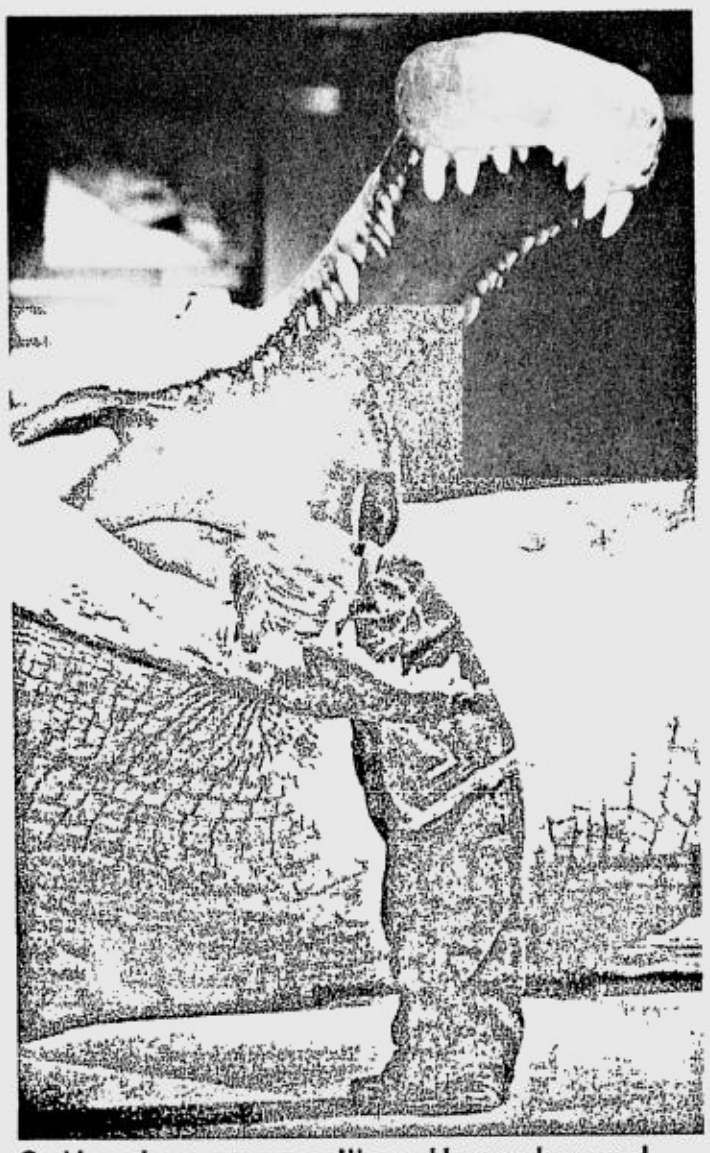

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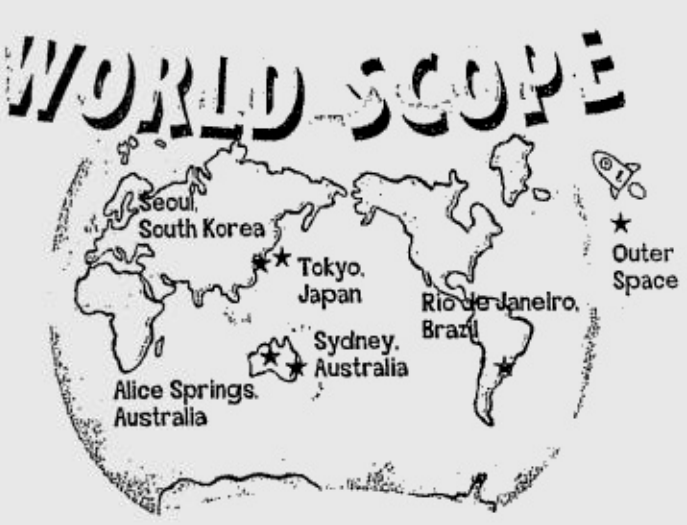

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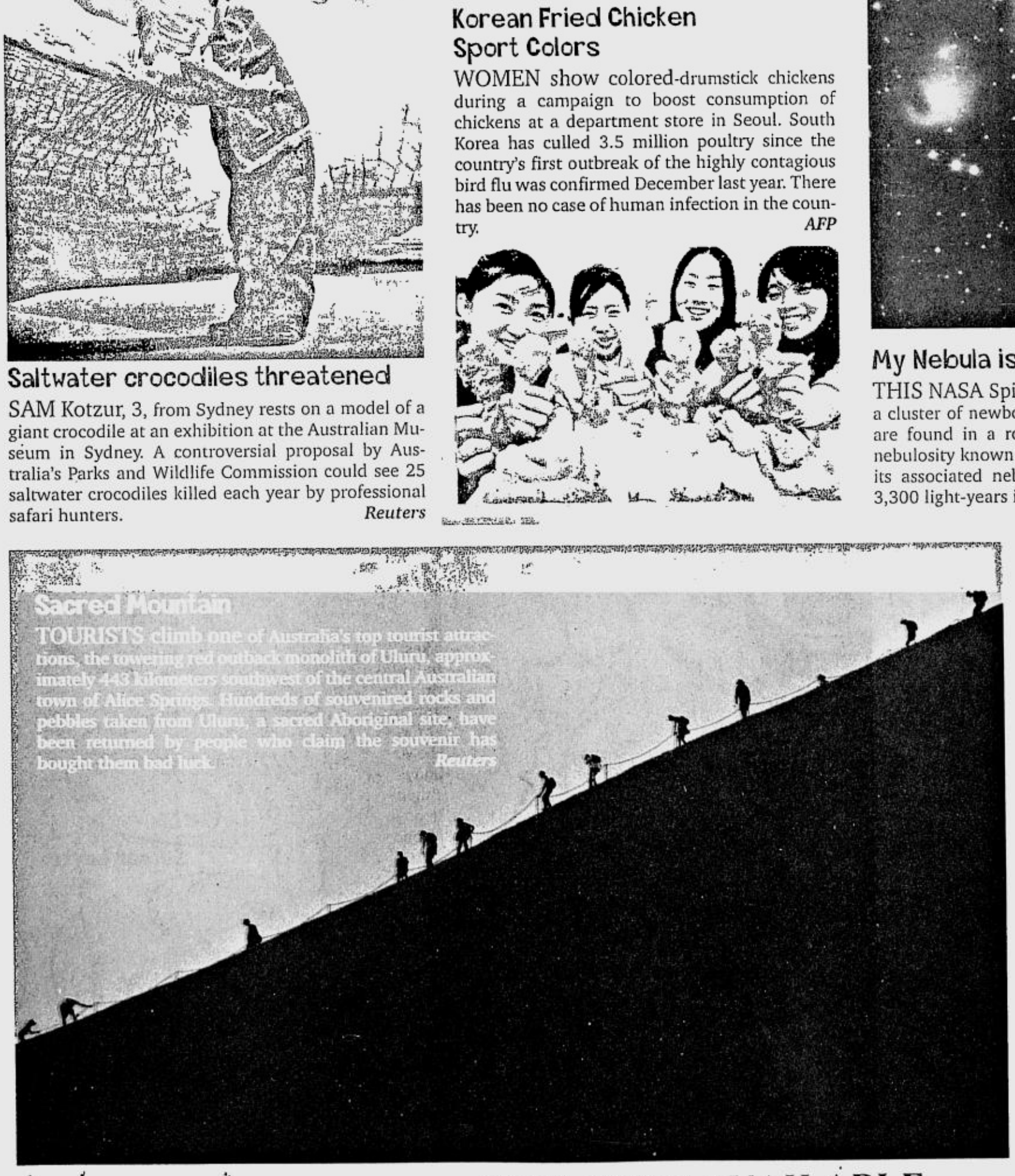

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Teacher for a Day

(from page 1)

tough but rewarding."

"Whatever happens, just do your best," said 12-year-old Geneva Marie Baruelo, who taught Math and Social Studies to sixth-graders.

Student Teachers in Bloomfield, too

JASMS wasn't the only school taken over by kids. It was also Teachers Day in Bloomfield Academy in Las Piñas.

Twelve-year-old Ericka "Icka" Gizella Dayto taught sixth grade Christian Living Education (CLE) classes.

"It was fun. They were nice to me," said sixth-grader Icka. "Many participated in recitation and they easily got the point of what I'm teaching."

Eleven-year-old Karla May Billota had fun with a spelling game in her Grade 1 English class.

The young teachers did agree that sometimes their students became unruly in their eagerness to get points.

Sixth-grader John Jeffrey De La Paz did not have a good day when he administered an exam to a sixth-grade music class.

"When they were taking the test, some shouted the answer to their seatmate. Some looked at the papers of their seatmate," said John. "I gave them feedback slips."

Uh-oh! Slips mean it's off to the principal's office.

A Principal's Job

JASMS' Brian said he realized being principal wasn't easy, as he witnessed a fight between two students. The real principal had to call up the children's parents to help resolve things.

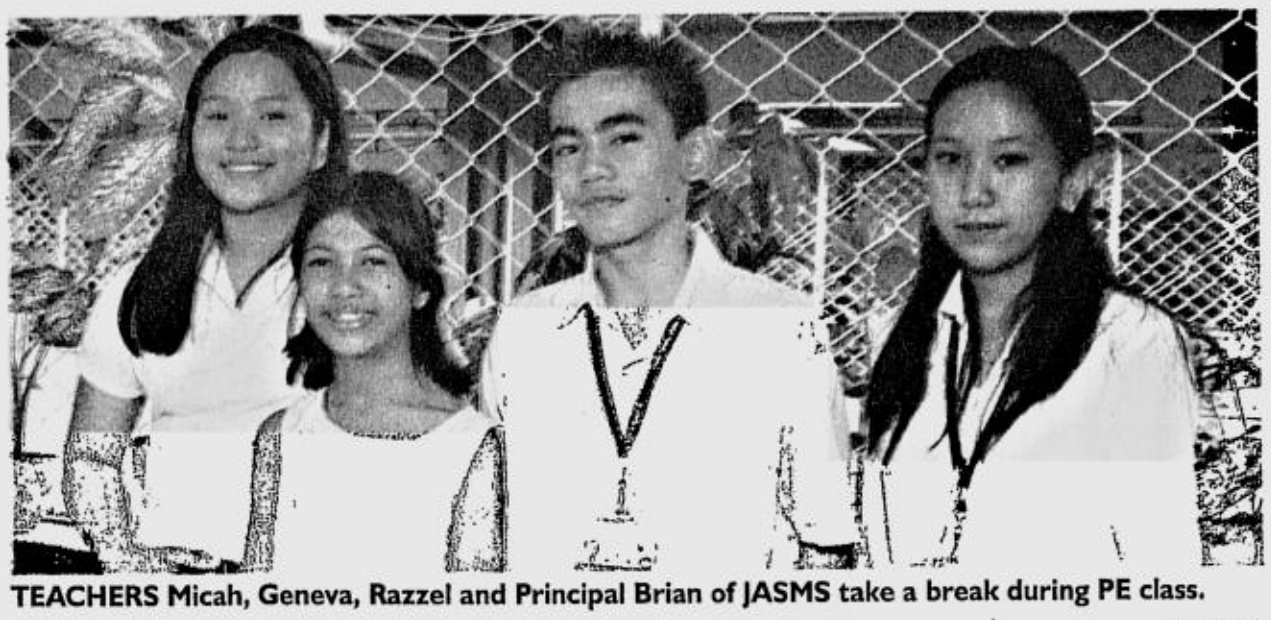
"It was tougher than I thought," Brian said. "We now appreciate our teachers very much."

"It was exhausting!" said seventh-grader Jethro Laurente. "The first-graders were all over me!"

Despite the occasional misdemeanor, the young teachers said they found the experience rewarding. Some said they were glad to have the chance to teach and that the effort was worth their time. Some even wanted to do it again.

"Even if there is a tired feeling, it felt good to be respected," said Icka.

But before anyone takes up a teaching career, the kids said they would try to be better students first.



TEACHERS Micah, Geneva, Razzel and Principal Brian of JASMS take a break during PE class.

RUDY ESPERAS

Being a Teacher is Hard

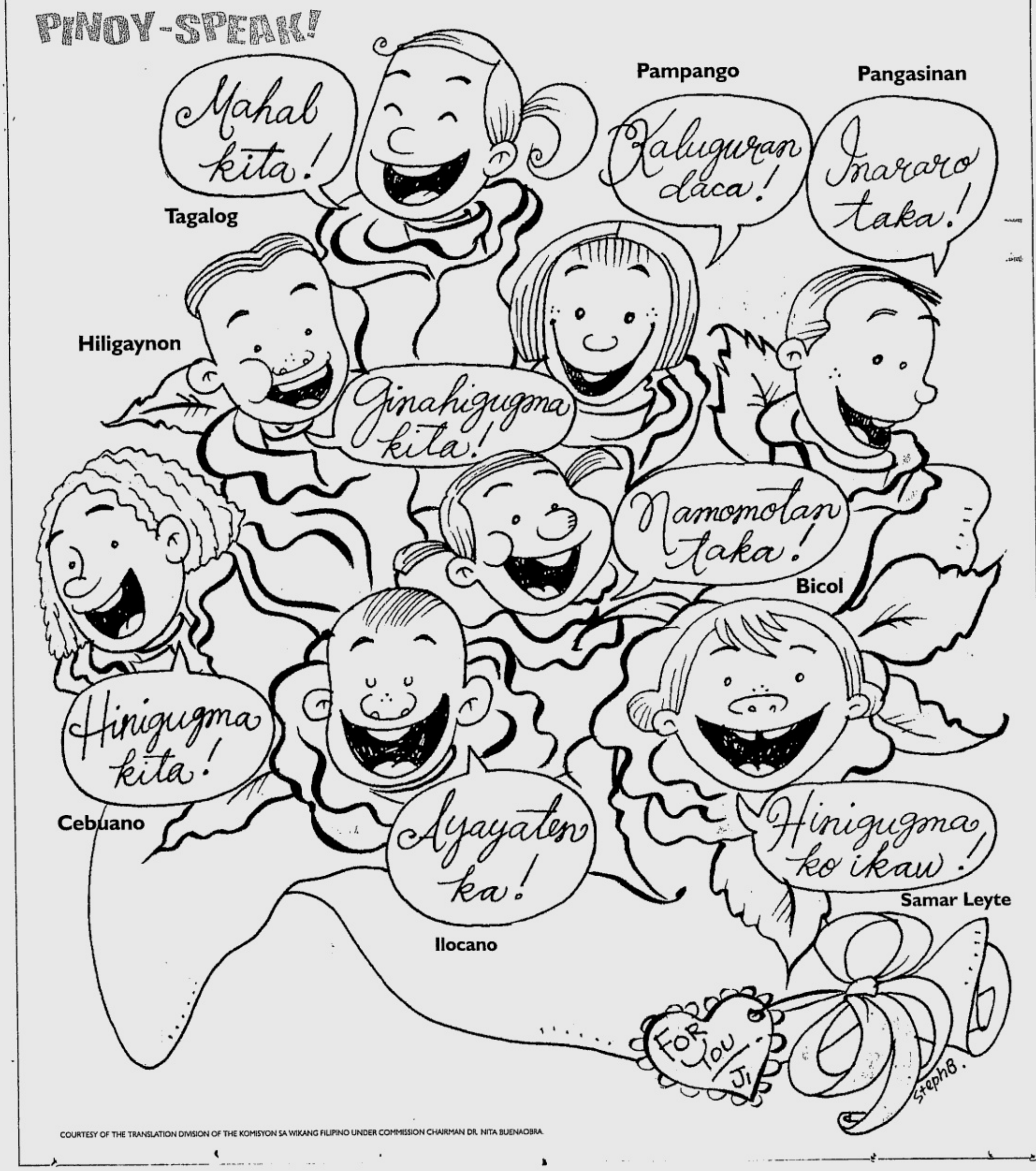
Micah resolved to be more attentive in class. She didn't like it when kids talked while she tried to teach.

Paying more attention, doing one's homework, and studying harder were some of the things the kids suggested to appreciate their teachers more.

Bloomfield's student council president, 12-year-old Eljamaine Louise Barrone, said they had T-shirts made for their teachers for Valentine's Day to show their appreciation.

On the back of the shirt were the words "We love this teacher." The funds came from the newspaper drive that they had.

"Teachers don't get paid very high," said Eljamaine. "But they give a lot of effort to teach us. So we should study hard."



COURTESY OF THE TRANSLATION DIVISION OF THE KOMISYON SA WIKANG FILIPINO UNDER COMMISSION CHAIRMAN DR. NITA BUENAOBRA.

FOR OF BY KIDS

The Song of March

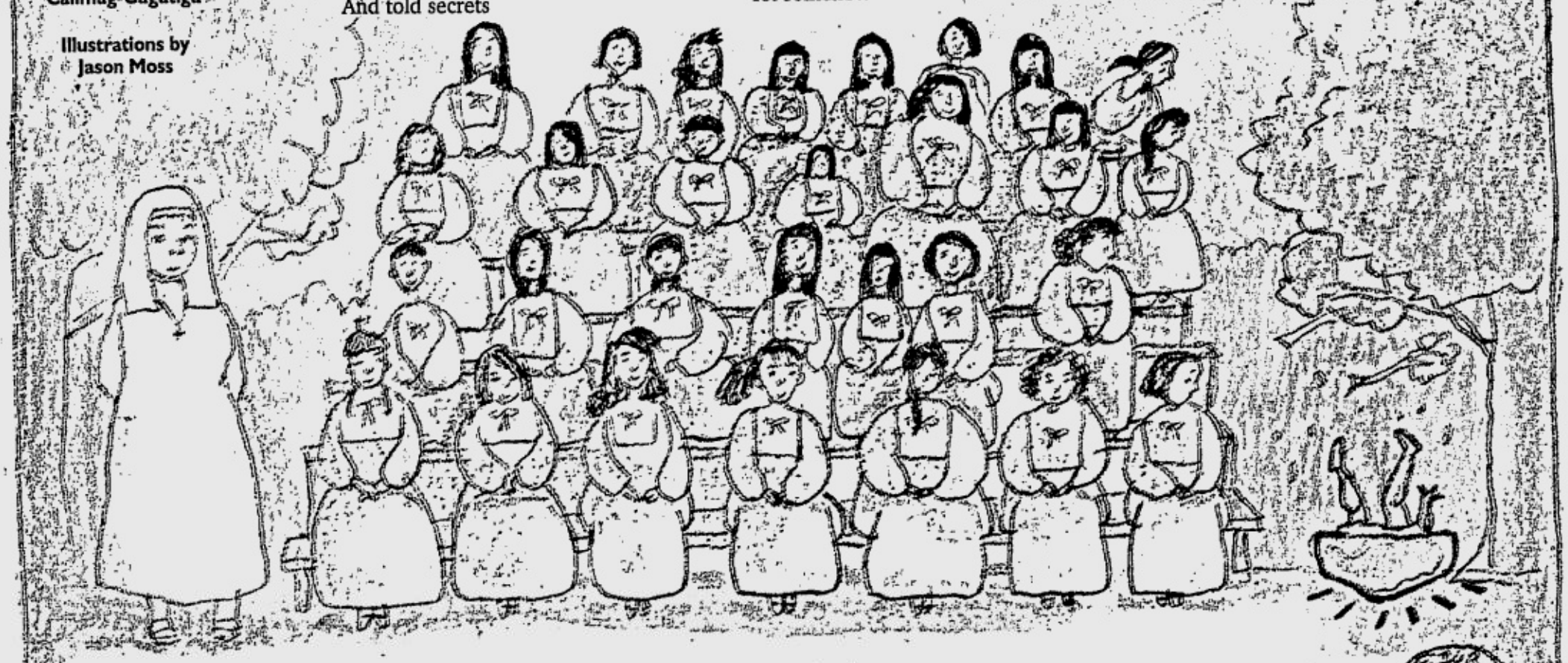
Poetry by
Zarah Grace
Calimag-Gagatiga

Illustrations by
Jason Moss

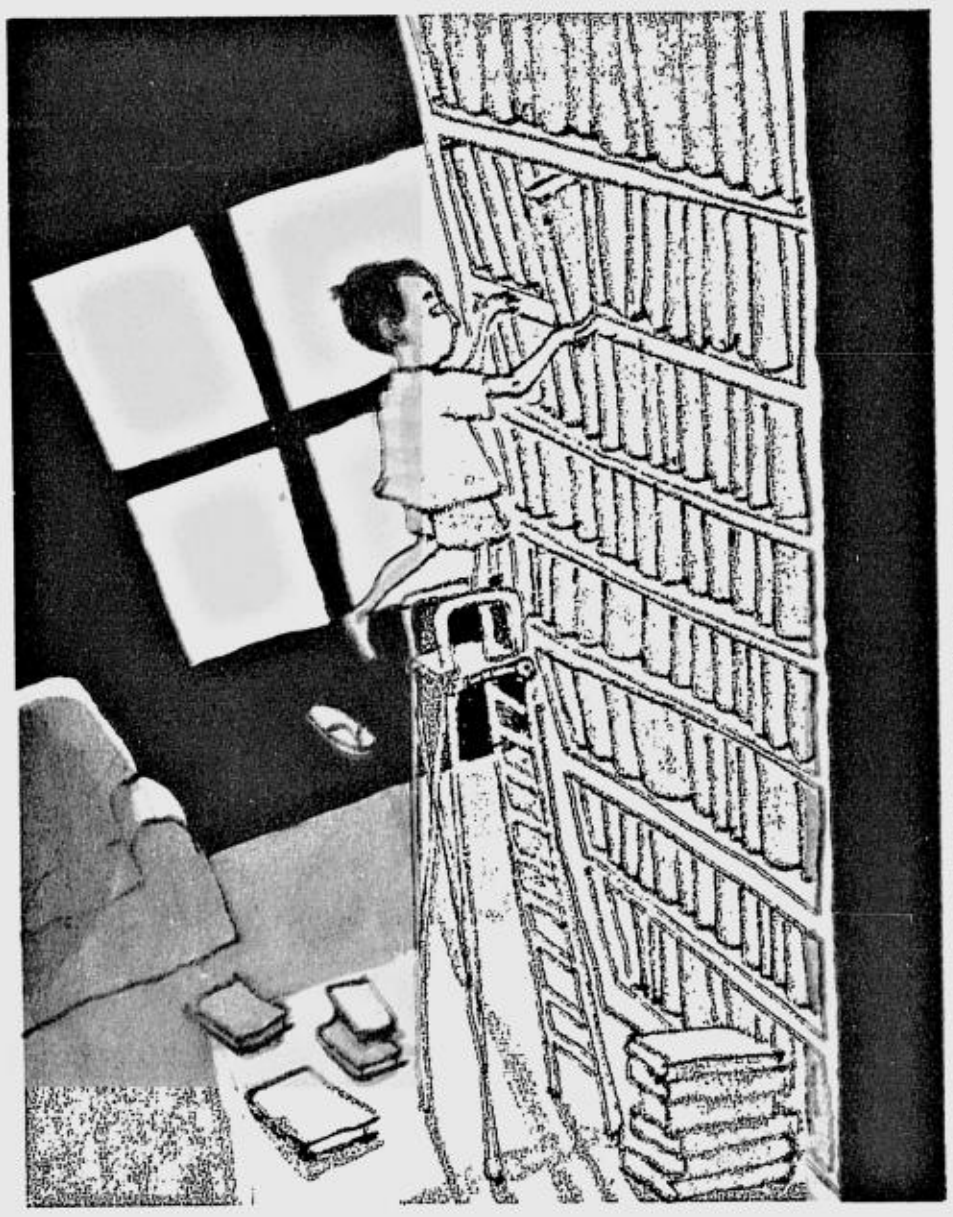
Was it only last June
When we shook hands
And embraced like brothers
We held on
And told secrets

Shared mirth and heartaches
Now we move to a beat
That leads us further on
To a place we know so well
Yet somehow

It is strange
And peculiar
What will you remember?
What will you bring to the other side?
I will leave a little of my old self behind



GRADE SEVEN · SISTER GILBERTA GRADUATING CLASS
SECTION H OUR LADY OF THE MYSTIC ROSE SCHOOL 1987



Big Sister

Poetry by Zarah Grace Calimag-Gagatiga

My sister went to summer camp
She left two days ago
She won't be back till Friday
I have five more days to go

No one will knock my towers down
Or pull the books out of the shelf
No one will wreck my robot zoids
I have the playroom to myself

I'll be the King of the TV
No one to fight or argue with
Which television show to watch
Cartoon Network or Discovery for Kids

There won't be loud sing-a-longs
No high volume radio
No one will laugh at my mistakes
When I practice on the old piano

But then again, it can be lonely
And the house can be too quiet
I'll be missing the things we do
Playing badminton, flying our kites

Who will help me solve word puzzles
Who will ride the bike with me
She always brings me to the candy store
And watches out for the neighborhood bully

My other friends can do these, I know
But my big sister is special
She may annoy me sometimes
But she can be loving and loyal

So I wait for her to come back
While I do some things on my own
My big sister is God's gift to me
Five more days, and she'll be home

Zarah was an only child until she was 12.

Zarah is a teacher and librarian in Xavier School.

Jason is an illustrator and editorial cartoonist. He is also a member of Ang Ilustrador ng Kabataan.

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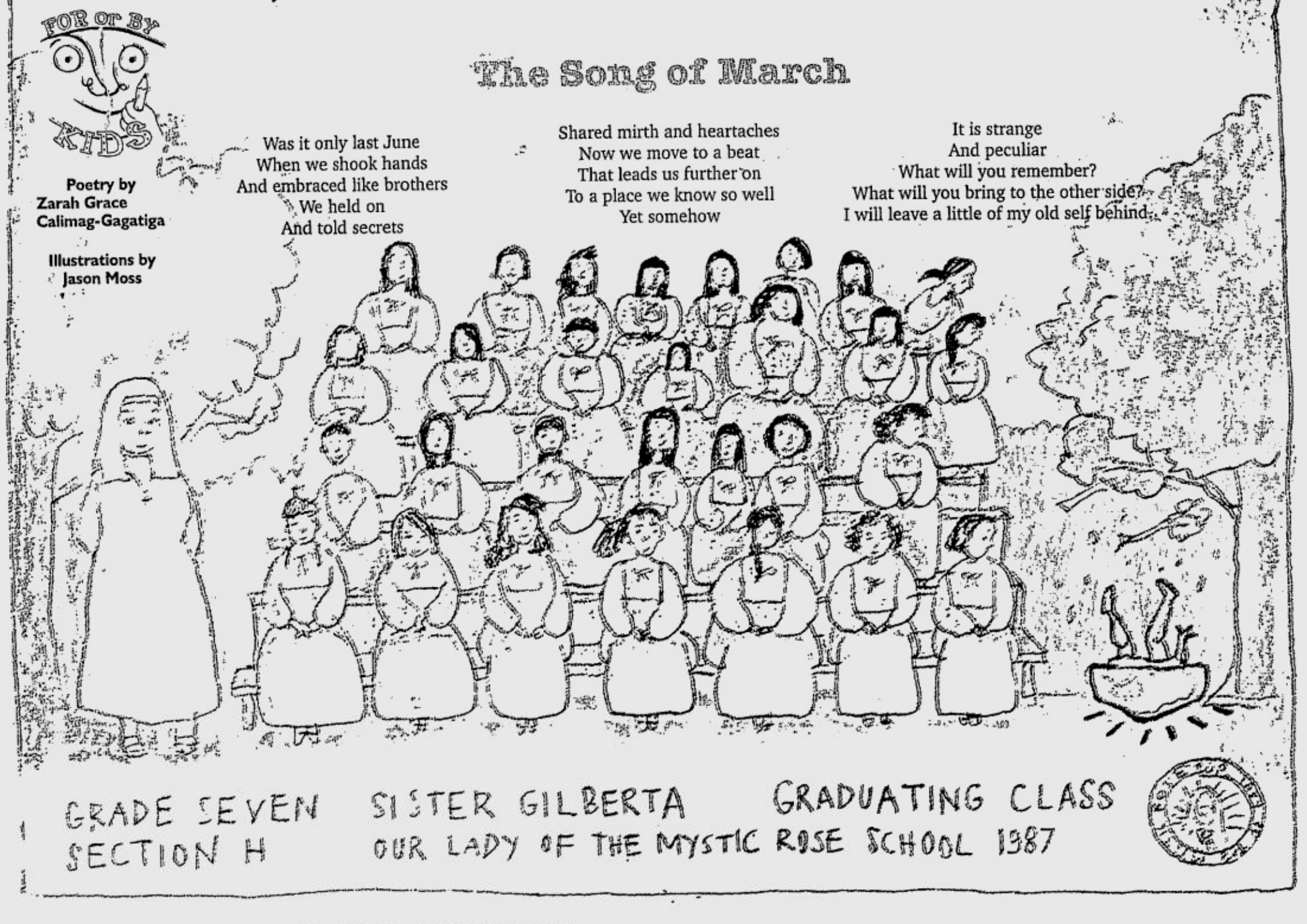

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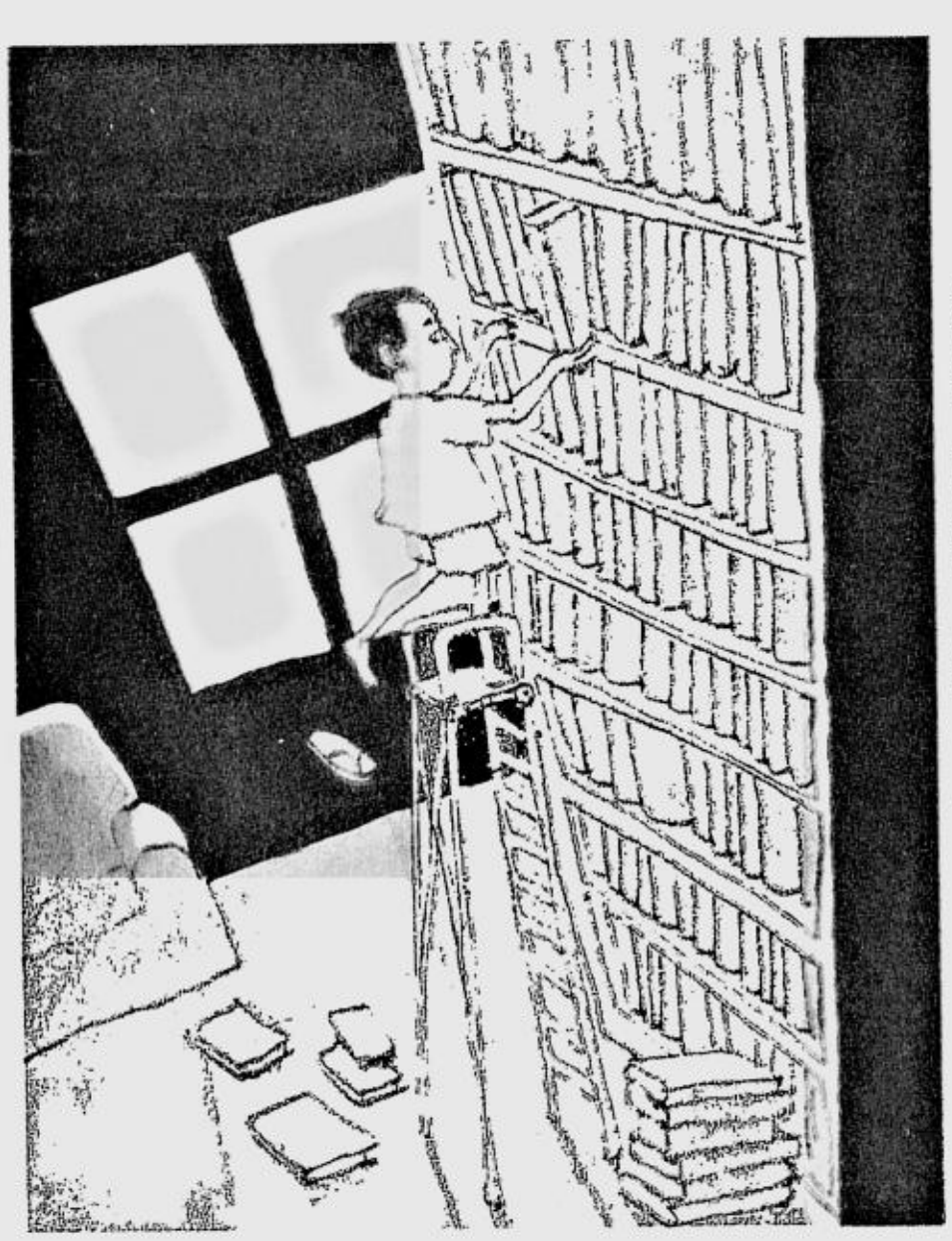

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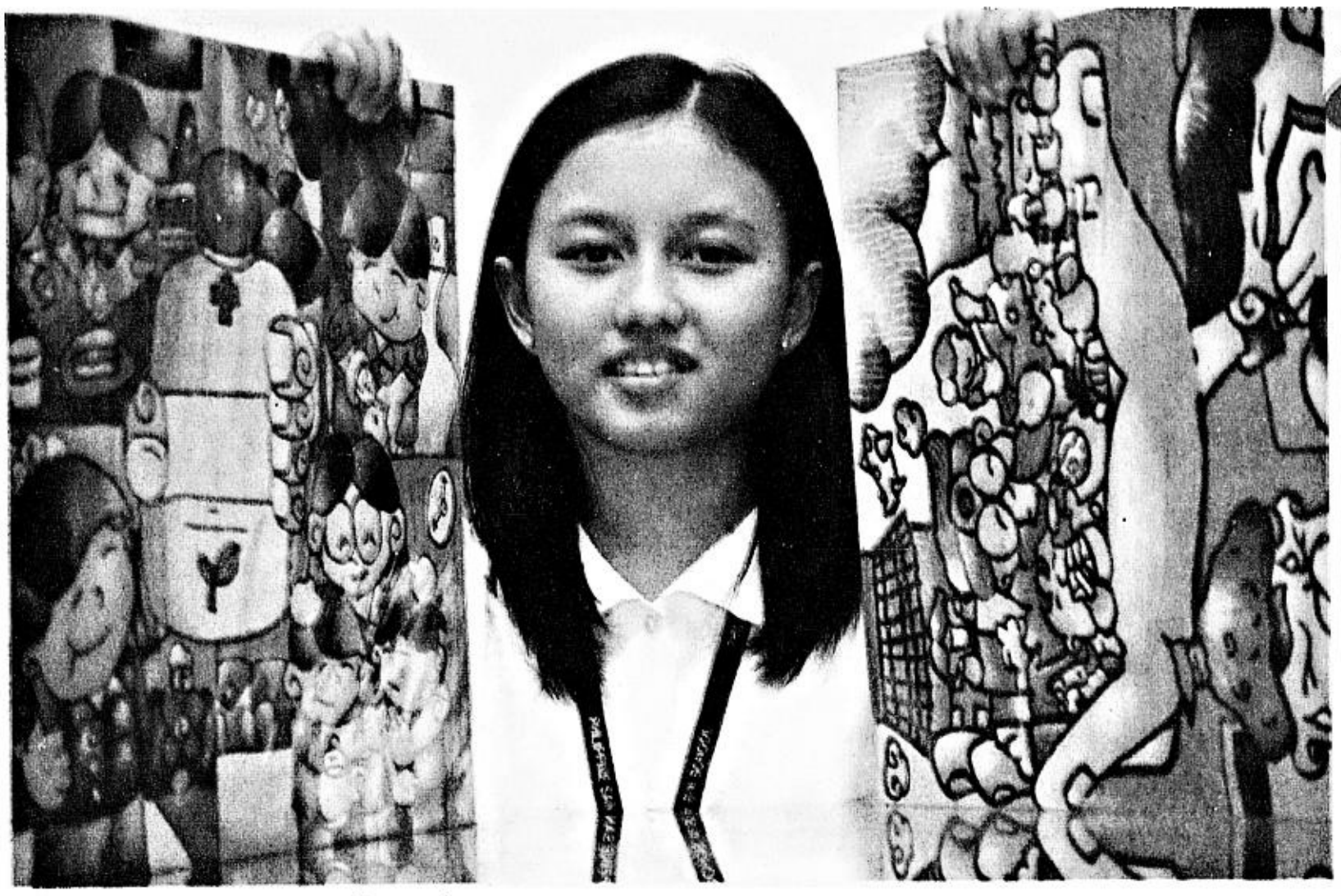

ASIDE from painting, Kaye also likes to sing. RANDY HORMILLOSA

The Dancing Painter

Chinese folk dances are this young girl's specialty

By Eline Santos

THIRTEEN-year-old Daren Kaye Aquino dances, draws and excels in her studies.

Aside from running for first honor, Kaye is the lead dancer in their school. She knows the dances so well, the sixth-grader at the Philippine San Bin School in Manila sometimes teaches her schoolmates the steps to the Chinese folk dances that they perform.

Aside from the Lao Lao and Mongolian dance, Kaye's favorite is the Sin Jiang dance because she finds it very beautiful.

But the activity Kaye enjoys the most is making art. Among her wins is first place in the poster-making contest of the Family Rosary Crusade and World Food Day celebration. One of her artworks was also sent to Taiwan as a finalist in the 34th World School Children's Art Exhibition.

"I often go to the bookstore and I look at the different drawings in art books," says Kaye.

Oil pastels are her favorite medium.

"They're easier to blend. I find it easier to pick the colors to mix together."

During contests, Kaye sometimes gets nervous, especially with tough competitors. Then there are times when she just feels relaxed and unhurried while doing her artwork.

"That's when I win," says Kaye.

"Don't be afraid that you might lose. Just do what you want to do."

R U 'RRIFIC?

'Rrific kids are smart
'Rrific kids are fun
Some aren't in the honors list
But get their homework done

Somehow the world's
a better place
I know this much is true
Hey 'Rrific kid!
We know you're there
We love you 'cause you're you!

If you think you're 'Rrific' or know someone who is, fill out the nomination form below and send it to:

Junior Inquirer
'KIDS'R'RRIFIC' Page
Phil. Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces corner Yague & Mascardo Sts.
1231 Makati City

Chosen nominees will be featured on this page and will get a free Junior Inquirer T-shirt!

Kid 'r'rrific
nomination form

I nominate: _____

Age: _____

I think she's/he's 'Rrific because: (Here's a tip! Write a detailed description of a good deed, project or accomplishment by your nominee.)

She/he lives at _____

and studies at _____

Her/his contact number is: _____

Sender's Name: _____

Sender's Age & School: _____

Sender's Address: _____

Sender's Contact No. _____

PEEK-A-BOO. Izo's not-so-hidden talents include playing the clarinet and painting. RANDY HORMILLOSA

IZO LOPEZ: GAMER, WRITER

There's a popular game at the Ateneo Grade School Rock Garden and Izo and a friend are the creators

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GET ready to hide! Eleven-year-old Lorenzo Elias "Izo" Lopez is a first-class Manhunter.

Manhunt is a game that fifth-grader Izo invented with his friend Henry Fernando III.

It's a hide-and-run game that the boys play in the Rock Garden of Ateneo de Manila in Quezon City. It started out as a secret but the cat is out of the bag.

Izo explains that Manhunt is played by trying to catch the "it" who is given a 10-second head start. Points are accumulated for every "catch."

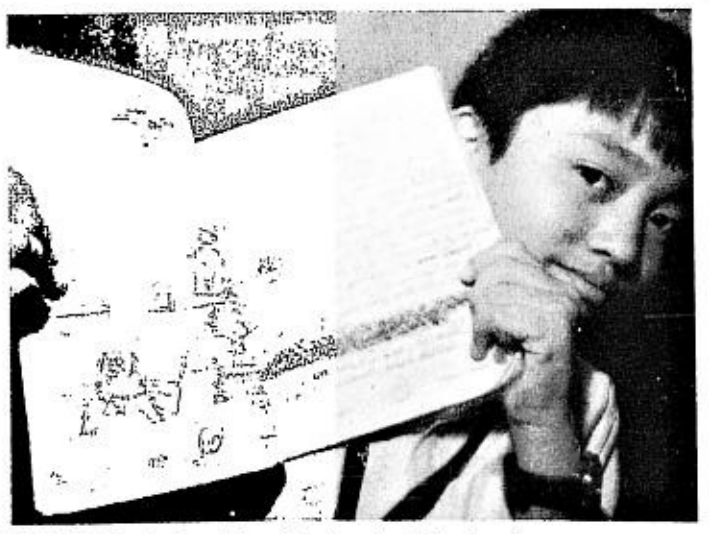
Manhunt is like a game that can be saved. When an "it" isn't found today, the game simply resumes the next day at lunchtime.

The secret that started since August 2003 would have been kept a little longer except classmates saw Izo writing Manhunt stories in his notebook.

"I want to be a writer when I grow up," says Izo. "I'm practicing now."

Izo has two finished stories on the game so far: "Invaders from Space" and "The Secret of the Rock Garden."

Who knows what time-stopping adventures the Manhunters will have next? Find out in Izo's coming third story, "Goodbye Humans." (Is that an alien's evil laughter in the background?)



HONOR student Izo illustrates his stories. RANDY HORMILLOSA

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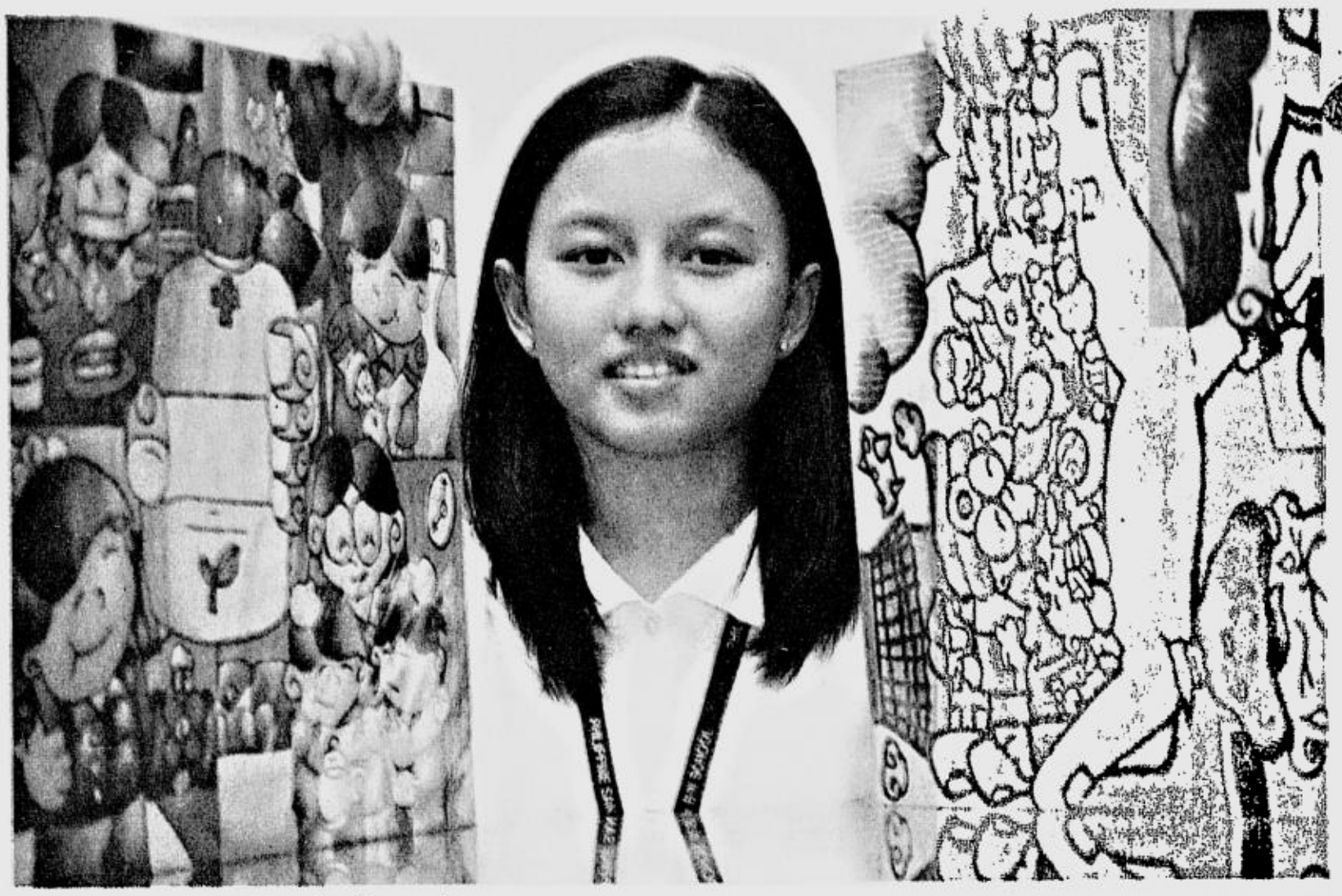

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Up, Up and Away! (from page 1)

tient and find a way to fix it instead," Kristina said.

Team members included Marielle Canicula, Pocholo Dunayre, Raissa Esperanza, Angel Garcia, Justin Victor Relativo, and Patricia Santosidad.

For the sixth-graders, the first place winner was a team from section Hera, led by Andre Lorenz Bugas, 12, and Paulina Almerido, 12.

Hera's winning team members included Gracielle Alvar, Pauline Chua, David Clamos, Christopher Clores, PJ Cobarrubia, and Patricia Cruz.

THE sixth-graders prepare their balloons for takeoff. BETOY JOHNSON

Hot Tips

The Mozart team said they stayed focused and alert to win.

"You have to keep the balloon two to three inches away from the can, otherwise it might catch fire," said 12-year-old Pocholo.

When they ran out of Japanese paper, they scrounged around for some as quickly as they could to patch up holes.

"Never lose hope," advised 10-year-old Patricia. "If you lose hope, you'll stop trying and just let your efforts go to waste."

The sixth-grade winners said they had disagreements over job assignments and whether to lend their gas to another group or not.

"It's best to avoid fighting within the group because it affects the work," said 12-year-old PJ.

Despite the disagreements, they managed to get through to first place anyway.

"Just think positively," said Andre. "If you think you'll lose, then that's what will happen."

"Things can get done if everyone cooperates," said Paulina. "Everything is possible if there is teamwork." *Eline Santos*

SUCCESS! A hot-air balloon flies off in the morning sky. BETOY JOHNSON

By Christine A. Paita

Got something for Out There? Send us the info two weeks in advance. Our fax number is 897-4794, and our e-mail address is ji@inquirer.com.ph.

Workshops

ART WORKSHOP TOUR. The Faber-Castell Art Workshop will tour the following schools: Sienna College on March 3 and St. Theresa's College on March 12. For more info, call Kuya Ami at 361-7391 to 92.

COOL SUMMER WORKSHOPS. Check out the lineup of workshops CCP has for kids from April 13 to May 8.

- **Creative Dramatics** for Children (5-8 years old), Tuesday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 12 noon, Conference Room
- Creative Dramatics for Children (9-11 years old), Tuesday to Friday, 1-5 p.m., Silangan Hall
- **Teen Theater** (12-16 years old), Tuesday to Friday, 1-5 p.m., Tanghalang Huseng Batute

For more info, please call Ms Nikki Torres at 832-3657 or 832-1125 local 1607.

NEW VOICE COMPANY WORKSHOPS. The New Voice Company offers the following classes this summer: **Basic Acting** for kids (6-11 years old), teens (12-16 years old) and adults (17 years old and above); Musical Theatre; and Intermediate Acting for teens and adults (11 years old and above). Auditions for Intermediate Acting and Musical Theatre are on March 14 and 21 (students may select one date) from 1-3 p.m. (for MT), and 3-5 p.m. (for IA). As part of the company's 10th anniversary, a 10% discount is available for past NVC workshop students, siblings, and all 10-year-olds! Classes begin April 1. For details, call 896-6695, 899-0630, or 896-5497. Send e-mail to nvc@pacific.net.ph, or visit the studio at 8020 Tanguile St. San Antonio Village Makati.

Activities

FOR LITTLE ATHLETES. This summer, The Little Gym features **"Laro, Sayaw at Saya: Philippine Games and Dances made Fun."** Mom, Dad and kids can move to the beat of Tinikling or Sayaw sa Bangko, or play everyone's favorite, Taguan, after an exciting challenge of Luksong Tinik. Join in the fun from March 14 to May 22. Avail of the 10% discount in tuition and membership fees until Feb. 29. For inquiries, call or visit The Little Gym today in any of the following branches: Mandaluyong (Shangri-La Plaza Mall) at 637-2463/64; Makati (Bonifacio Tech Center, Fort Bonifacio) at 815-1735/79; Alabang (Festival Supermall) at 850-4060/61; and Quezon City (Shoppersville, Katipunan Avenue) at 929-9013/18.

Cable Picks

FEBRUARY PREVIEW. With 2004 being a leap year, (which means there are 29 days in February, and this occurs only once every four years), **Cartoon Network** leaps through time with a four-hour marathon of cartoons on Feb. 29 from 12 noon to 4 p.m. Spend the marathon with your fave toons like Johnny Bravo, Dexter, Baboon and Weasel, The Powerpuff Girls and the Time Squad.

GOTCHA! This February, animals are getting their 15 minutes of fame with hilarious, candid moments caught on camera. Watch these cute animals on Feb. 29 from 6 p.m. to 12 midnight on Animal Planet. **Animal Planet** also searched for the most outrageous pet tricks to crown the one and only **"Pet Star."** See roller-skating birds, rats that play basketball, a pig that paints, a dog that surfs and many more! "Pet Star $25,000 Championship" premieres on Sunday, Feb. 29 from 8 to 10 p.m.

PRINCESS HOUR. Every weekend this month between 8 and 9 a.m., royalty will grace the TV screen through Disney Channel's **"Princess Hour."** Watch the enchanting tales of "The Little Mermaid" at 8 a.m. and "Aladdin" at 8:30 a.m.

THEY'RE BACK! Meet dinosaur friends in Disney Channel's **"The Land Before Time II: The Great Valley Adventure."** The movie is a sequel to the classic "Land Before Time," where young dinosaurs Littlefoot, Cera, Spike, Duckie and Petrie first met. Watch how the young dinos take on adult tasks on Feb. 28 at 7:30 p.m.

THE Land Before time II: The Great Valley Adventure

TEEN TITANS. Join five teenage **superheroes** who will protect the Earth from a new generation of villains. Robin the Boy Wonder, Beast Boy, Cyborg, Raven and Starfire fight aliens, evildoers and dirty dishes, starting March 5 at 6 p.m. on Cartoon Network.

Books

NEW TITLES. Two new books are out to delight young readers. Check out **"Eragon,"** an epic fantasy book written by Christopher Paolini when he was 15. It tells of the adventures of a poor boy who discovers his destiny as a dragon rider. Also, get to know the children's author behind well-loved titles such as "Cat in the Hat" and "Grinch" in the book "The Seuss, the Whole Seuss, and Nothing but the Seuss." It is a visual treat for fans and readers of Theodor Seuss Geisel whose imagination has captivated readers. Get a copy of these books in any National Book Store branch nationwide.

Be a Talent

GARFIELD SEARCH. Want to become a model of Garfield clothes? Young girls ages **4 to 10** who have a knack for modeling can join the search for the **image models** for Garfield Garments. The winners will get to represent Garfield garments in various events and shows. Call Canary Enterprises at 722-9673 or 722-9671.

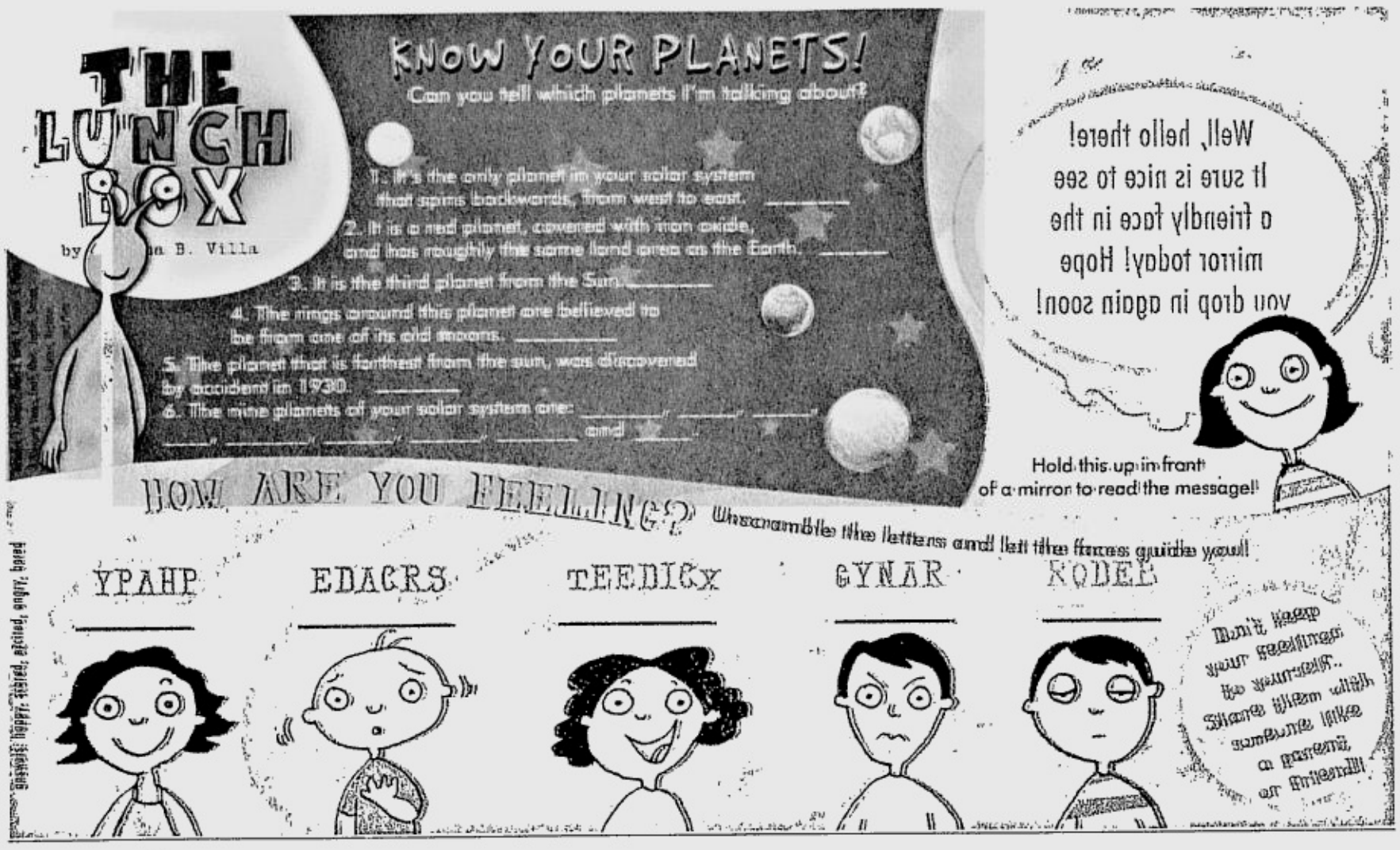
BUCKLES

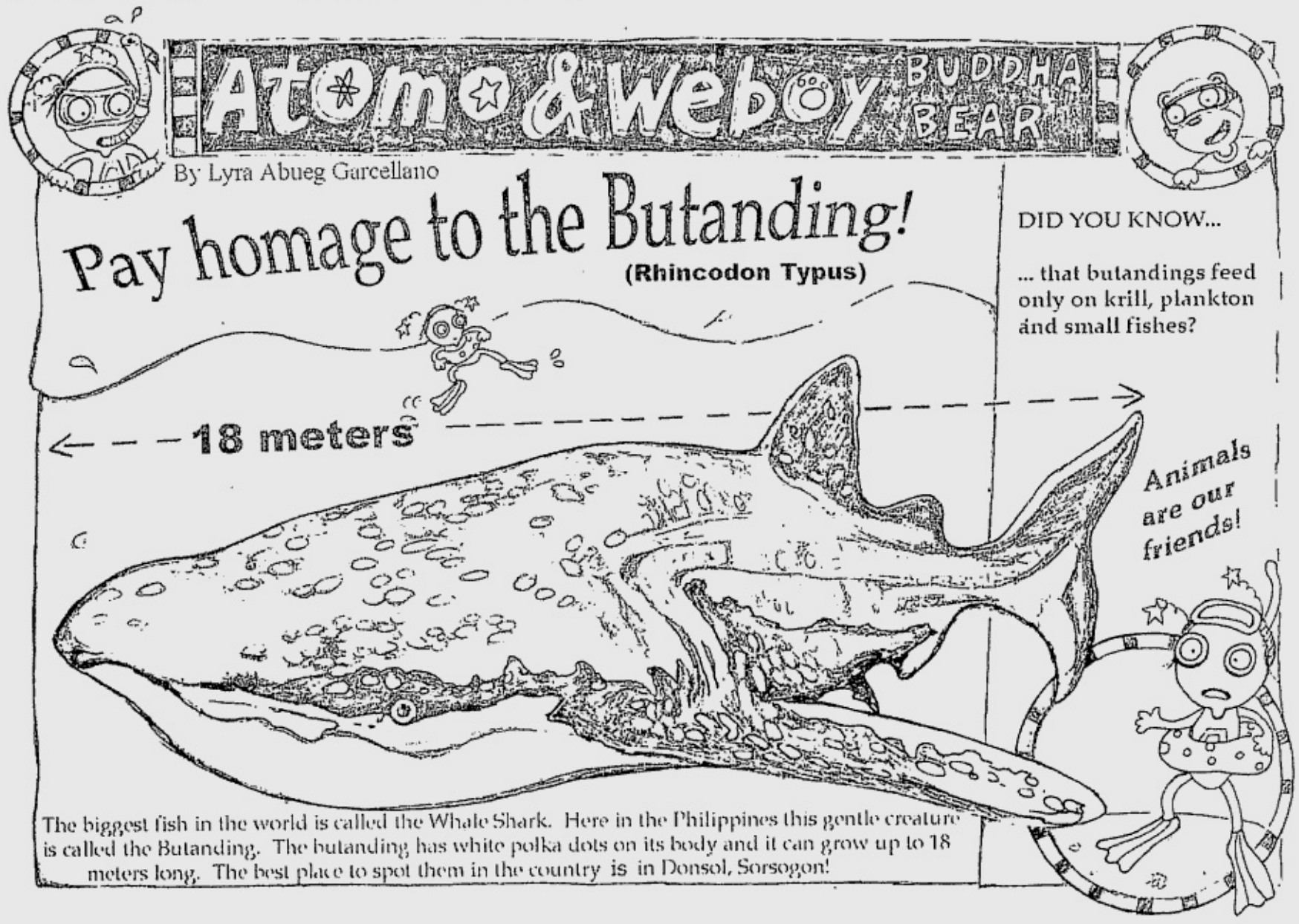
BY DAVID GILBERT

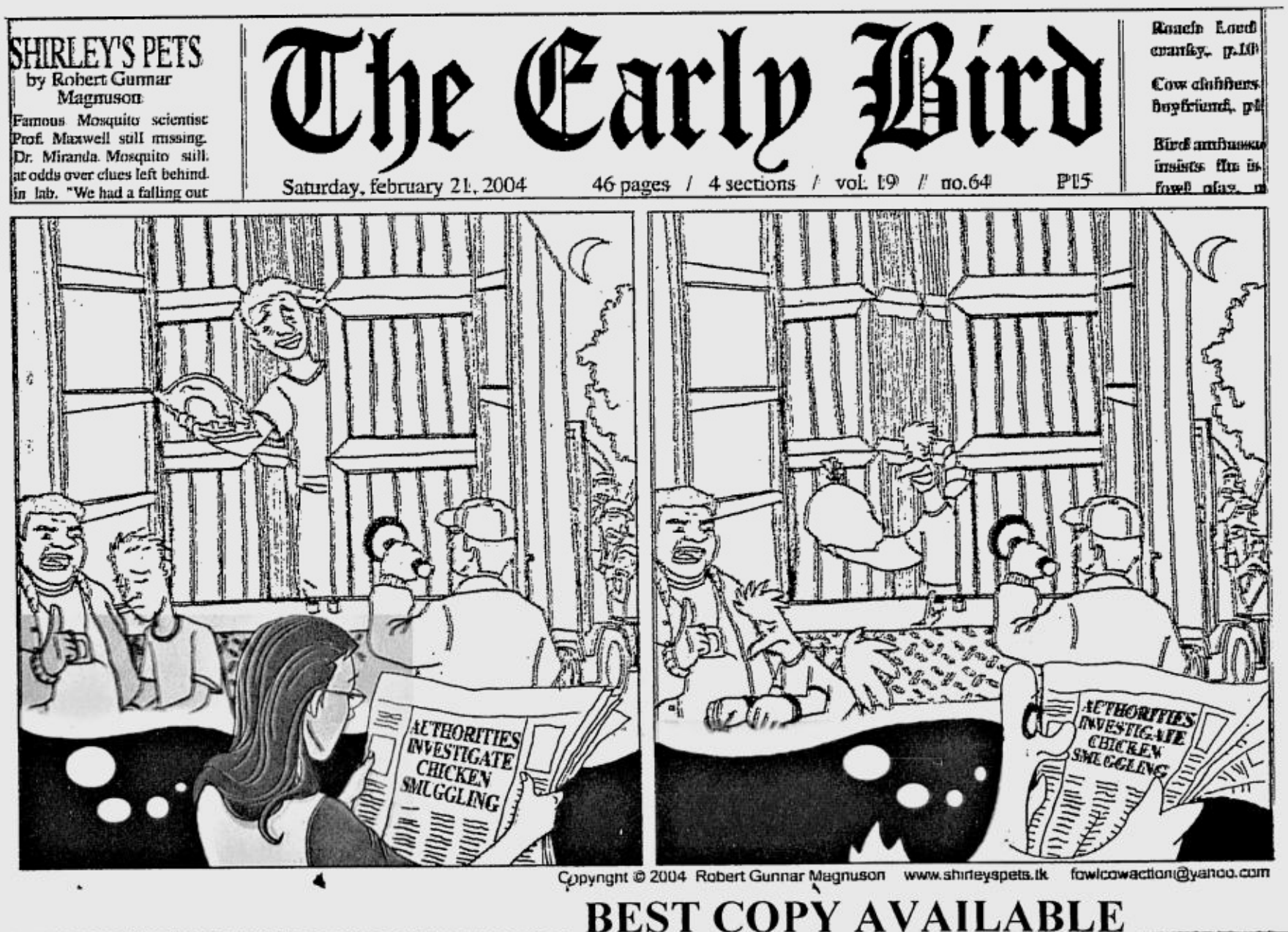
US university unveils first robot receptionist

(from page 1)

With her ability to detect motion, she greets visitors as they approach. Type in a question on a keyboard and she dispenses directions around the Pittsburgh campus and fills visitors in on the weather. *AP*







Moshi Moshi, Hello Hello

(from page 1)

vorite subject, the sports they played, how many they were in the family, and more.

Twelve-year-old Jerome Maniya, who has participated in three video conferences since the project started, says it's fun to interact with kids from another country.

"It's easier to communicate with other people without even travelling," he says.

Through the video phone, students from both countries would sing a nursery rhyme together. Each class from Notre Dame would also sing their school hymn before the next section came in.

Ichi, ni, san, shi

One thing everyone enjoyed was counting to 10 using their fingers.

The way Filipinos and Japanese count looks pretty much the same from 1 to 5. But when the Japanese count from 6 to 10, their fingers close instead of open.

"I want to know how they count up to a hundred," says 11-year-old Gonzalo Gumogda.

"It's good to get to know other kids, especially from other countries. You get to know what people from another country are like," Gonzalo adds.

Ten-year-old Johann Molano says he finds the Japanese very respectful and friendly. If they had more time, he would like to tell them about Filipino heroes like Jose Rizal and Andres Bonifacio.

Eleven-year-old Marcial Confiado Jr. on the other hand would like to show them Filipino handicrafts like wood carvings. Eleven-year-old Jessica Marielle Beter would like to show that Filipinos are good and responsible.

Talking to someone you've never met before and watching yourself on the screen can make anyone nervous, but St. Joseph students say they're getting the hang of it.

"It's better to experience new things while you're young so that when you get older, you are used to it already," says Jerome.

"We get to meet new friends in other countries," says Johann. "It's nice to know new people and be friendly."

RUDY ESPERAS

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■News / A2
Nestor de Villa dies at 75

■ Opinion / A16
Lacson: I'll pursue reforms without fear

■Across / A17
Rain soaks Flower Festival in Baguio

■ Sports / A25
PBA Fiesta Conference starts today

■ Magazine / Q1
Rich Alvarez makes his move

Conjoined Filipino twins hurdle riskiest of surgeries

NEW YORK—Two young brothers from the Philippines, still joined at the tops of their heads, survived their third major operation Friday, the riskiest yet in the long process of giving them separate lives.

After nine hours in the operating room, including 5 1/2 hours of surgery on blood vessels around their separate brains,

CONJOINED/ A22

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Gloria: I am the true daughter of Pangasinan

By Gil Cabacungan Jr.

PANGASINAN is mine.

So what if the Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino claims Pangasinan, the Philippines' second biggest vote-rich province

GLORIA/ A8

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

February 22, 2004 ★★★ 72 pages / 8 sections / vol. 19 / no. 76 P18

website: www.inq7.net

GMA betrayed me thrice–Bro. Eddie

Says Palace made him juicy offers to withdraw

By Blanche S. Rivera

THREE times he asked her, and three times she denied that she would be standing for election.

And like Peter the Apostle who promised he would never disown Christ—and did, not just once but three times—President Macapagal-Arroyo went back on her word to Eduardo "Bro. Eddie" Villanueva.

"What many people do not know is that GMA assured me three times that she would not run. She said the Lord put it in her heart not to run anymore... Now if the Lord changed her mind, that is between Him and her," Villanueva told INQUIRER editors and reporters at a dinner-meeting Thursday night.

When Ms Macapagal decided to seek another term in Malacañang, she not only betrayed me, she also betrayed the Filipino people, he added.

Once close allies, Bro. Eddie is now running against Ms Macapagal for the country's top post. He has been accused of dropping his loyalty to the President when he was offered a chance to run in the May elections.

Villanueva explained that he took up the challenge of Task Force Pagbabago, the multi-sectoral group supporting his candidacy, because he believed Ms Macapagal's initial pronouncements that she would not run for a full six-year term.

The President formally announced her decision not to seek the presidency on Dec. 30, 2002 in Baguio City, so she could focus on the reforms needed to build a strong republic.

Villanueva, who supported Ms Macapagal's ascent to power during Edsa II in January 2001, said he confirmed the President's de-

GMA/ A22

DOUBLE celebration for the Pro-Life Philippines Foundation's 11th convention which held the first-ever Festival of Twins in Asia in Intramuros on Saturday. Participating were 260 pairs of identical and fraternal twins, 13 triplets aged 6 months to 68 years, most of whom are difficult to tell apart, doubling and tripling the delight of spectators. The festival to be held yearly from now on aims to celebrate the uniqueness of multiple births and to send the message that all life forms must be respected.

RANDY HUMMELGOSA

Seeing double is twice the fun at Festival of Twins

By Leila B. Salaverria

THEY SAW double and had twice the fun.

Members of the Pro-Life Philippines Foundation who took part in yesterday's first-ever Festival of Twins in Asia had a grand time trying to tell many of their guests apart.

Two hundred sixty pairs of identical and fraternal twins and 13 triplets, aged six months to 68 years, participated in the event held in Intramuros, the old Walled City, to recognize how special twins are and to celebrate life with double the passion.

Some sets of twins walked around looking like mirror images, identical down to the last hair clip. Others wore matching outfits but in different colors. Fortunately, they all sported name tags.

The festival, which also marked Pro-Life's 11th convention, aimed to celebrate not just the uniqueness of twins and other multiple-birth children but also to bring home the message that life in all forms must be respected and nurtured, said Pro-Life national coordinator Sister Pilar Verzosa.

"Sometimes, there are those who find it hard to take care of twins. But having them is a blessing and we want to spread the message about how special they are and how they should be taken care of," Verzosa said.

Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, a pro-life advocate, said twins should be regarded as a double blessing, and triplets even more.

"We should all be involved in propagating a culture of life," he said.

SEEING/ A4

EDSA I TIMELINE

MORE than half of the Filipinos today, the 20-somethings and younger who number about 4.3 million, have no memory at all of the first Edsa People Power revolt that occurred between Feb. 22 and 25, 1986. Hence, this chronology, distilled from books and PDI archives, about what has been called the "real" Edsa.

By PDI Research

Day One, Feb. 22, 1986

Midnight: Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile, Silvestre Afable and three key officials finalize Enrile's speech in which he will proclaim himself head of a ruling junta after rebel troops led by the Reform the Armed Forces Movement assault Malacañang. Assault is planned for Feb. 23 at 2 a.m.

DAY ONE/ A8

PDI PHOTO

THE FEB. 23 issue of the INQUIRER tells the story—blow by blow—of the Enrile-Ramos defection from the Marcos administration. Note the three banner heads.

MARCOS MILLIONS

'Imelda wanted it all'

By Arlyn de la Cruz, *Contributor*
Editor: Leah Makabenta

(First of three parts)

Editor's Note: Every post-Marcos government, from Aquino to Estrada, had sought a compromise agreement with the heirs of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos in the belief that it would be the most speedy way to prise the fabled ill-gotten billions from the stranglehold of the Swiss gnomes guarding them.

That none of these deals ever prospered was—apart from the sincerity or cupidity of the governments involved—largely because of the bad faith of Imelda Marcos, according to one of the former First Lady's disenchanted "blind followers."

Cherry Cobarrubias, the head of the True Marcos Loyalists Headquarters who had a bitter falling-out with Imelda in October 2002, said Imelda never was interested in a settlement and was loath to give up even a small part of the Swiss bank deposits. This is her story.

SPECIAL REPORT

SHE THOUGHT she could have it all," said Cherry Cobarrubias who claimed to have represented Imelda R. Marcos and her children in secret talks with the Ramos government to withdraw the $356 million Marcos deposits that had been ordered frozen by Swiss banking authorities in 1986 after the People Power revolution that overthrew the dictator.

The negotiations, conducted between 1994 and 1997 with the then chief of the Presidential Commission on Good Government Magtanggol Gunigundo, centered on how to implement a compromise agreement which Gunigundo signed in December 1993 with the Marcos heirs for a 75-25 percent division of the $356 million Swiss deposits and all other Marcos assets.

In 1997, the Swiss Supreme Court ordered the $356 million—now grown to $560 million—returned to the Philippines in escrow pending the outcome of the forfeiture trial in the Sandiganbayan.

By the time a final decision was handed down

IMELDA/ A8

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph
Second FRONTPAGE
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2004

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming widespread rains over Bicol region and Visayas. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/02/22/04

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Poe may face contempt

By Armand N. Nocum

FERNANDO Poe Jr., the main opposition standard-bearer, faces possible contempt charges for refusing to submit his birth certificate, his own and his parent's marriage contracts and other documents to the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission.

The documents were being sought by the PAGC in connection with its investigation of fired National Archives Director Ricardo Manapat who has been charged with falsification of public documents before the Office of the Ombudsman.

PAGC Chair Dario Rama issued on Feb. 2 a "*subpoena duces tecum*" (Latin for "under penalty you shall bring with you") asking Poe to submit copies of his marriage contract and license with actress Susan Roces, his birth and baptismal certificates, the marriage contract of his father Allan Poe and Paulita Gomez and the marriage contract between Poe's father and Bessie Kelly.

The Rama order cautioned Poe to "fail not under penalty of law."

Poe's lawyers Estelito Mendoza and Adel Tamano, however, filed a motion to quash the subpoena on Feb. 12, describing it as "invalid."

Power questioned

The lawyers questioned the PAGC's power to subpoena witnesses and charge those who refuse to do so with contempt.

They said that administrative agencies like the PAGC did not have contempt and subpoena powers which "partake of a judicial nature."

The lawyer said that to allow administrative agencies like the PAGC "to exercise these powers without express statutory basis would run afoul of the doctrine of separation of powers."

They noted that Executive Order No. 12 which created the PAGC was "not a law" and, therefore, not a basis for a "valid grant of subpoena power."

Not a public official

They also argued that even assuming the PAGC had subpoena powers, Poe may not be compelled to present the documents under the PAGC's own rules because Poe was not a public officer.

They also said the documents requested were "irrelevant" to the issue of whether or not Manapat was "administratively and criminally liable for his acts in regard to the falsification of documents used in the petition for disqualification" filed against Poe before the Commission on Elections.

The documents requested by the PAGC are the crux of ongoing deliberations in the Supreme Court on whether Poe is a natural-born Filipino. A finding against Poe would disqualify him from running for President.

The lawyers claimed that Poe did not have "possession of the original documents" and that the alleged marriage between Allan Poe and Gomez was "non-existent," the documents pertaining to the marriage having been allegedly "fabricated and falsified" by Manapat.

Raps an option

Rama declined to comment on the lawyers' claims but a PAGC lawyer said a contempt action was an option.

"We can file contempt charges against him in court," said the official who asked not to be named.

Rama said the PAGC would decide soon on the motion of Poe's lawyers for the PAGC to quash its subpoena order.

"If we grant the motion, that's the end of it. If we deny it, then we will issue another subpoena," he said.

Dead relatives helping him cope, says FPJ

By Christine Avendaño

SANTIAGO, Isabela—Opposition presidential bet Fernando Poe Jr. yesterday admitted the questions being raised about his citizenship were personally hurtful, but his dead parents and grandmother were helping him to cope.

"*Masakit pero alam ko tinutulungan nila ako. Nababanggit ang mga pangalan nila. Alam ko tinutulungan nila ako* (It hurts but I know they are helping me. Their names are being dragged into the controversy but I know they are helping me)," said Poe.

Poe is facing a disqualification case before the Supreme Court on the ground that he is not a natural-born Filipino.

The petitioners claimed that Poe was an illegitimate child since he was born before his father, the late actor Fernando Poe Sr., married his mother, Bessie Kelly, an American. Under certain interpretations of the citizenship law, illegitimate children take the citizenship of their mother.

Grandma was Pinay

But Poe said not everyone knows that his mother was born in the Philippines and that his grandmother was a Filipino.

He said his mother was born at the Philippine General Hospital and she lived for some time in Tondo, Manila.

He said his grandmother, Kelly's mother, had been from Baliuag, Bulacan.

'Truth will out'

In an interview over dzRH radio yesterday, Poe assured listeners that he was a Filipino and that many believe he was a natural-born Filipino citizen.

"*Dito ako pinanganak at dito ako ililibing. Huwag kayong mag-aalala at lalabas ang katotohanan* (I was born here and I will be buried here. Don't worry, the truth will out)," he said.

Reacting to reporters' comments that the "friends of the court" who appeared before the SC on Wednesday to shed light on the issue seemed to favor him, Poe said: "*Okay yun, medyo nakakalamang tayo dun* (That's great, we seem to be getting ahead there)."

But reminded that the "friends of the court" said that he must prove that his father had recognized him as his son, Poe wondered how this could be done.

"*Paano natin ma-eestablish yun, wala na tatay ko?* (How are we going to do that? My father is dead)," he said.

Asked whether the high court would eventually rule in his favor, he said: "Whether in favor or not, I'm a Filipino."

Nestor de Villa, actor, dies at 75

By Marinel R. Cruz

VETERAN actor Nestor de Villa, the other half of the popular Nida-Nestor acting duo of the '50s, died after suffering cardiac arrest on Saturday morning at his home in Alabang, Muntinlupa. He was 75.

De Villa, Gines Francisco Soriano in real life, died "in his sleep" at 6:43 a.m., said his son Joby Soriano.

"It was a peaceful death," he said. "We were all beside him when he died."

Soriano said that complications due to cancer, with which his father was diagnosed in April 2003, triggered the heart attack.

It was "very complicated, so we would rather not talk about it in public," he said.

Soriano said his father had been in and out of hospital before he died.

De Villa's remains were cremated Saturday afternoon. "It was his wish," said Soriano.

His remains are at the New Life Christian Center in Alabang Hills Village, Muntinlupa, where Soriano is a parish pastor. Interment will be announced later.

De Villa is survived by his wife, Marilu Cacho Soriano, his three sons and in-laws, Jeric and Marissa, Gicky and Malu, Joby and Cindy, and only daughter Karel and husband Toti.

A contract star of LVN Pictures, De Villa's first movie was "Amor Mio" in 1951, opposite Tessie Quintana. This was followed by a bit role in "Dimas."

But it was his teamup with slain actress Nida Blanca in "Romansa sa Nayon," that brought him fame and elevated him to matinee idol status.

He and Blanca went on to make "Dalagang Taring," "Tumbalik na Daigdig," "Bahala Na," "Waray Waray" and "Ikaw Kasi."

De Villa and Blanca also hosted the Nida-Nestor Show on ABS-CBN until 1971. The show won for him the best TV male performer award in the 1967 Citizen's Award for Television (CAT).

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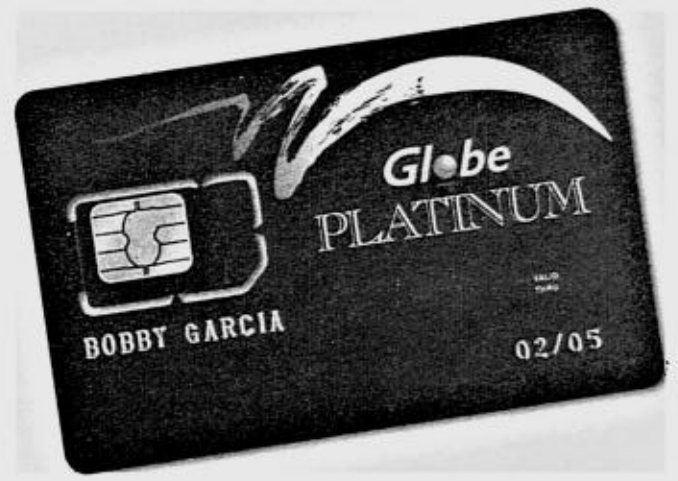

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Next: A mini festival of triplets

By Volt Contreras

ENCOURAGED by the success of the country's first-ever "Festival of Twins," the Pro-Life Foundation plans to hold an immediate follow-up, this time a "mini-festival of triplets," according to the event's chief organizer Natalie Palanca.

A likely host for the triplets' bash would be Dau, Pampanga, where an institution that is helping "13 sets of triplets" is based.

Anthony Dy Dee, president of the Dee Hwa Liong Foundation Medical Center, attended the festival in Intramuros yesterday.

Dee said the Dau-based foundation has been helping triplets, mostly from Pampanga province, for some five years now, giving them free milk, medical treatment and even educational assistance.

A highlight of yesterday's program was the special awards given to a select group of twins who attended. The youngest twins to have registered for the event were 6-month-old Michaela Beatriz and Raphael Anton Embong of San Juan, and the oldest were 68-year-old Maria Salarria and Zenaida Antonio of Manila.

The "most look-alike" twins were the chubby brothers Lance and Justin Rador, 3, of Paco; those with the "most colorful" attire were Ma. Mila Angel and Ma. Luz Bolong, 50. The sisters, who are from San Fernando, La Union, came in identical *balintawak* costumes (Filipino dress with butterfly sleeves in a plaid pattern).

Basking in the attention were barong-clad 61-year-old Orlando Sarreal, a retired university science professor, and his identical twin Rolando, a retired telecommunications executive.

The Sarreals came in full force, with their two sisters and their 93-year-old-mother Corazon in tow.

"They have shared emotions and even get sick at the same time most of the time," said Corazon of her twins.

The Sarreal twins obviously take enormous pride in their academic achievements. In a brief interview with the INQUIRER, Orlando spoke about how he has been teaching since the 1960s, while Rolando claimed to be able to "speak six languages."

"This is a good beginning for twins who need support," said Orlando of the event. Or was that Rolando talking?

RANDY HORMILLOSA

GROWN-UP twins wear identical clothes during the Festival of Twins at Clamshell 2, Wow Philippines, in Intramuros.

Seeing double is twice the fun at Festival of Twins

From page A1

Dr. Rebecca Singson, an obstetrician and gynecologist who is herself a mother of 10-year-old fraternal twins, said one of the most important things to remember in raising twins is to let them express their individuality.

Stress individuality

She said twins should be encouraged to develop their own interests, and that one twin should not be forced to take up a particular hobby just because his twin is doing so.

Singson also discouraged people from referring to multiple-birth children as "twins" or "*kambal*."

They should always be addressed by their names to establish their own identity, she said.

Singson also debunked the old wives' tale that women who eat twin bananas will give birth to twins, and the myth that the incidence of twin births skips a generation in families with a history of multiple births.

The doctor said it was a misconception to say that only those with a history of twins in the family will have twin children.

'Induced' twins

Singson said she was living proof that this was not true. With the help of science, she was able to have fraternal twins by taking fertility pills even though she was not sterile.

"I had them induced," said the mother of attractive twins Giovanni and Giulia.

"At 33, I didn't want to have one pregnancy after another so I really made sure I would have twins," said Singson who practices at the Makati Medical Center and the Asian Hospital.

But women taking fertility pills in order to have multiple births only have a 20 to 30 percent chance of succeeding, said Singson, while adding that a good number of multiple births in the country have been caused by fertility pills.

Whether induced or not, however, raising twins is both fun and challenging.

According to Eric Hokia, who is father to 10-year-old identical twins Erwin and Harold, the biggest burden of having twins is financial because the bills are doubled.

Still, he said he and his wife are managing quite well in caring for their two active twin boys and two younger daughters aged 8 and 5.

Erwin and Harold yesterday looked more alike than ever dressed in matching red polo shirts and denim trousers and sporting identical haircuts.

How to tell them apart

But Erwin, who seemed the more talkative of the two and is older by two minutes, revealed that there was a way to tell them apart.

Erwin said Harold has a scar beside his left eyebrow, which he got after falling from a cabinet that he had climbed. The brothers also revealed that, just like other siblings, they fight a lot but make up afterwards.

And who is the handsomer of the two?

"*Pareho kami!* (We both are)," the twins chorused.

Eric said that while people are often confused on how to tell them apart, those who have gotten to know them have little trouble.

The organizers of the festival pronounced it a success as the turnout of participating twins exceeded their projection of 200 pairs.

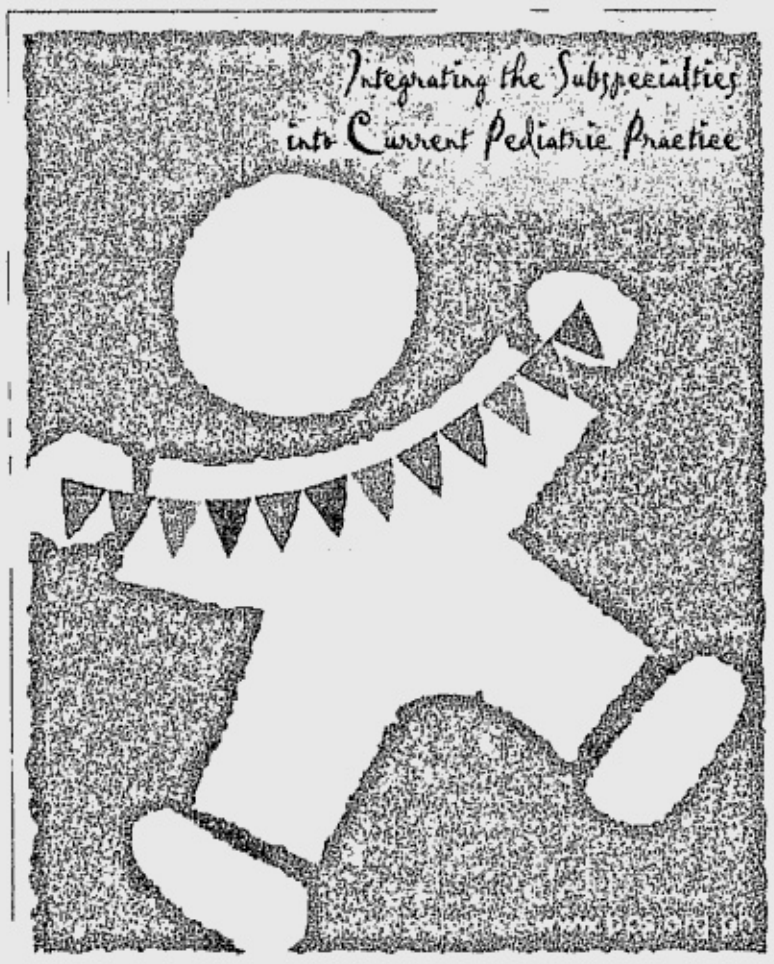
Inspired

Public relations consultant Natalie Palanca said she was inspired to organize the festival by her 8-year-old twin granddaughters.

Palanca said that with the success of this first venture, she plans on making the festival an annual event to be held in various provinces.

She also plans to set up a foundation to address the needs and concerns of twins, especially underprivileged twin children.

Perhaps then next year's projects will be twice blessed.



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- Longevity Issues for the Physician
  Shelley Ann dela Vega, MD (Phils)
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  John Tam, PhD (Hong Kong)
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REGISTRATION FEES	On or Before 28 February 2004 Pre-Registration*	On-Site
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Non-Member	Php 2,000.00	Php 2,500.00
Residents/Fellows	Php 700.00	Php 1,500.00
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Annual PPS Membership Php
PPS Convention Fee
Pre-Convention Workshop
TOTAL AMOUNT Php

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PRE-CONVENTION SUBSPECIALTY COURSES
April 25, 2004, 8:00 am-12:00 nn

1. "SCREENING FOR DEVELOPMENTAL DISORDERS"
   - Philippine Society for Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics
2. "ADVANCED VACCINOLOGY: VACCINE SAFETY AND ADVERSE EFFECTS FOLLOWING IMMUNIZATION"
   - Pediatric Infectious Disease Society of the Philippines & the Philippine Foundation for Vaccinology
3. "PRACTICAL ELECTROCARDIOGRAM AND CHEST X-RAY INTERPRETATION"
   - Philippine Society of Pediatric Cardiology
4. "GUT BUSTERS: WHO ARE YOU GOING TO CALL?"
   - Philippine Society of Pediatric Gastroenterology & Nutrition and the Philippine Society of Pediatric Surgeons

POST-CONVENTION WORKSHOPS
April 28, 2004, 1:30-3:30 PM

1. "NATIONAL IMCI COORDINATORS' SUMMIT"
   - PPS Committee on Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses (IMCI)
2. " NEONATAL RESUSCITATION PROGRAM (NRP): TRAINORS' TRAINING PROGRAM"
   - PPS Section of Neonatology
3. "COMPUTER TOOLS FOR PEDIATRIC TRAINING PROGRAMS"
   - PPS Child Health Informatics Committee (CHIC)

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Burden of proof on Poe–lawyer

By Philip C. Tubeza and Michael L. Ubac

OPPOSITION presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr. was dared yesterday to present proof his father had recognized him as his son at birth.

Ma. Jeanette Tecson, one of the lawyers seeking Poe's disqualification on the ground he was not a natural-born Filipino citizen, said the burden of proof now rested with Poe's camp, adding that it may be too late to present some of the evidence.

Tecson issued the statement after four amici curiae (friends of the court)—retired SC Justice Vicente Mendoza, former 1986 constitutional commission member Fr. Joaquin Bernas S.J., former University of the Philippines College of Law Dean Merlin Magallona, and UP law professor Ruben Balane—took the position that the legitimacy or illegitimacy of Poe was irrelevant as long as his father recognized him as his son.

Requirement

The Constitution requires that the President of the country is a natural-born citizen.

"Our stand is consistent with the amici curiae. There is no evidence on record and it is FPJ who has the burden of proof (to show his filiation to his father)," Tecson said.

"We have consistently maintained that FPJ has not presented any proof of filiation under any of the ways provided by the Civil Code. If they really have proof, they should have shown it before at the Commission on Elections," Tecson added.

During oral arguments on Friday, Balane told the SC that Poe should be the one to present the evidence, since he was the one "who seeks to establish himself as a legitimated child."

Tecson said that, under the law, proof of filiation could come by means of a birth certificate, a will or a public document signed by the father, but she noted that Poe's camp had not produced any of these.

Relevance

Tecson also contested the amici curiae's argument that illegitimacy was irrelevant in discussing if Poe was a natural-born citizen.

Tecson expressed confidence the petitioners would win the disqualification case against Poe.

But one administration senator believes otherwise.

Sen. Joker Arroyo said the Supreme Court will approach the case with "utmost caution" and decide in favor of the actor.

"Judging from media reports about the hearing, the Supreme Court would most likely dismiss the petition to disqualify Mr. Poe but wouldn't hazard the rationale for the court decision," Arroyo told the INQUIRER.

Arroyo said the issue of Poe's citizenship should be resolved soonest. "The sooner we dispose of this nagging issue, the better for everyone," he said.

In Baguio City, Alyansa ng Pag-asa standard-bearer Raul Roco said Poe should be declared a qualified candidate by the Supreme Court so the people could decide this early who is fit to assume the presidency. *With reports from TJ Burgonio and Dona Pazzibugan*

Ping hints he may be INC's bet

By Norman Bordadora

COULD HE be the anointed one?

Opposition candidate Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson's cryptic remarks and confident body language seemed to suggest that he has the endorsement and estimated six million votes of the influential Iglesia ni Cristo sect all wrapped up.

During a recent two-day campaign series that took him to Quezon province, Lacson dropped by the INC chapels in Gumaca town on Thursday and in Lucena City on Friday.

"We always drop by the Iglesia every time we have an opportunity," he told reporters Friday afternoon. He had just visited his second INC chapel in two days, ending his political tour in Lucban town.

"But I go to the Iglesia ni Cristo only if I'm invited. Gate-crashing has never been my style," Lacson said on the late-night talk show Dong Puno Live Thursday.

Also on the TV show, Lacson said he had met with top officials of the INC. He refused to give details of the meeting, however or say, if he had personally met with INC leader Bishop Eraño Manalo.

This much Lacson would reveal—he emerged from the meeting "smiling."

Lacson, who is Catholic but rarely goes to Sunday Mass, met with leaders of the INC in Gumaca and Lucena City, away from the prying eyes and ears of the media.

Photographers and cameramen were prevented from entering the INC compound, although they were part of the motorcade that brought Lacson to the chapel.

Lacson's forays into INC territory came in the wake of President Macapagal-Arroyo's recent failed bid for an audience with Manalo over "rice issues."

While he seemed confident of the INC endorsement—said to have made or broken presidential candidates in the past—Lacson seemed not to care about the Catholic Church's reaction to his stand on modern family planning methods.

"If we maintain two children per couple from now until 2008, we can start a zero-population growth rate," he said.

Lacson knows he is risking another fight with the Catholic Church, which had resisted Fidel Ramos and Joseph Estrada's population management programs.

"At the risk and pain of being at loggerheads with the Catholic Church, I still maintain that the government has to ... arrest the increasing population growth in this country," Lacson said.

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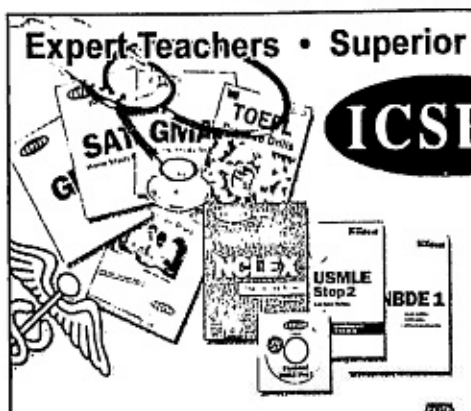

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Roco ready to debate rivals in Payatas, by 'da riles'

By TJ Burgonio

BAGUIO CITY—Name the time and place. He's ready.

An upbeat Raul Roco yesterday said he's all set to debate his rivals for the presidency, President Macapagal-Arroyo and actor Fernando Poe Jr., on a wide range of pressing national issues at a place and time of their choice.

"Fernando Poe is ready to debate," said the Alyansa ng Pag-asa standard-bearer. "He said he wants it held in the depressed areas. He can pick the venue. If he wants Payatas, so be it. If he wants it in 'home along da riles' (the railroad tracks), we'll do it there. We can do it on any tracks in Manila.

"What's important is that we get to hear one's platform of government. That's the essence of democracy."

Roco said Ms Macapagal, who has accepted his proposal for a televised presidential debate "anytime," could also pick the venue for the debate.

"If they want, a debate between Roco, the Rock, and Gloria, the Queen, could be held in the morning before the A-B-C crowd; in the afternoon, Roco can take on Da King (Poe) before the D-E. We'll give them the choice because in a democracy, a debate is very important," Roco said before walking the stretch of Session Road and Magsaysay Blvd. with his running mate, former Tarlac Rep. Herminio Aquino, and some of their senatorial candidates.

Poe's initial response to Roco's challenge to a televised debate was to say that debates "divide the people" and were a waste of time because they entailed too much talking. But he eventually agreed on the condition that it would be held in a depressed area, where people could ask questions of the candidates.

Asked to comment on Poe's remark that debates were divisive, Roco said: "Perhaps he has not realized that democracy is a man's affair. He should be man enough (to accept the challenge). *Hinihintay nyang mapuno ang salop; puno na ang salop* (He's waiting for things to come to a head; they are at a head)."

"If he (Poe) cannot show any interest in serving the people, he should just join the Cannes international film festival or the acting awards derby," Roco added. "Not the campaign, which is devoted to improving the welfare of the people. And if he can't explain his platform in a debate, he might end up aping his model when he gets to Malacañang," he said, referring to Poe's bosom buddy, ousted President Joseph Estrada, who was unseated in a people's revolt in 2001 amid charges of plunder, incompetence and inefficiency.

Roco had said the Church and the media should make the arrangements for the debates.

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, February 22, 2004
7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: 1 S 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23

Saul went down with three thousand picked men of Israel to the desert of Ziph in search of David.

So, that night, David and Abishai went into the camp and found Saul sleeping in the center, his spear thrust into the ground at his head, while Abner and the rest of the soldiers were sleeping around him. Abishai said to David, "God has delivered your enemy into your hands this day. Let me nail him to the ground with one thrust of the spear; I will not repeat it." But David answered Abishai, "Do not harm him. For who could harm Yahweh's anointed and not be punished?

So David took the spear and the water jug from near Saul's head and they left. Nobody saw, nobody knew, nobody woke up. All remained asleep, for a deep sleep from Yahweh had fallen on them.

On the opposite slope David stood at a distance, on top of the hill.

David answered, "I have your spear with me, O king! Let one of your servants come over to fetch it. Yahweh rewards a righteous and loyal man. Today he delivered you into my hands but I refused to harm Yahweh's anointed."

2nd Reading: 1 Cor 15:45-49

Scripture says that Adam, the first man became a living being, was given natural life; but the last Adam has become a life-giving spirit.

The spirit does not appear first, but the natural life, and afterwards comes the spirit. The first man comes from the earth and is earthly, while the second one comes from heaven. As it was with the earthly one, so is it with the earthly people. As it is with Christ, so with the heavenly. This is why, after bearing the image of the earthly one, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly one.

Gospel: Lk 6:27-38

Jesus said to his disciples, "I say to you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you. Bless those who curse you and pray for those who treat you badly. To the one who strikes you on the cheek, turn the other cheek; from the one who takes your coat, do not keep back your shirt. Give to the one who asks and if anyone has taken something from you, do not demand it back.

Do to others as you would have others do to you. If you love only those who love you, what kind of graciousness is yours? Even sinners love those who love them. If you do favors to those who are good to you, what kind of graciousness is yours? Even sinners do the same. If you lend only when you expect to receive, what kind of graciousness is yours? For sinners also lend to sinners, expecting to receive something in return.

But love your enemies and do good to them, and lend when there is nothing to expect in return. Then will your reward be great and you will be sons and daughters of the Most High. For he is kind towards the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

Don't be a judge of others and you will not be judged; do not condemn and you will not be condemned; forgive and you will be forgiven; give and it will be given to you, and you will receive in your sack good measure, pressed down, full and running over. For the measure you give will be the measure you receive back."

Commentary

Jesus tells us to give without expecting a reward. But then he goes on immediately to tell about the reward in store for us if we do!

St. Bernard of Clairvaux in the 12th century put this in a cryptic phrase, "God is not loved without reward, but God should be loved without thought of reward." If we were to love God only for the sake of some reward, we would love the reward, and God only as a means of acquiring it. But God is not a means to anything; God is, as we say, the end, the goal.

What is the reward that Jesus promises? "You will be sons and daughters of the Most High." You will be like your Father in heaven. What is the Father like? "He is kind towards the ungrateful and the wicked." Or as Matthew's gospel puts it, "He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the just and the unjust" (5:45). The reward is something we will be, not something we will have. In other words, your reward for being generous is that you will be made capable of being endlessly generous! Anything less would be bribery.

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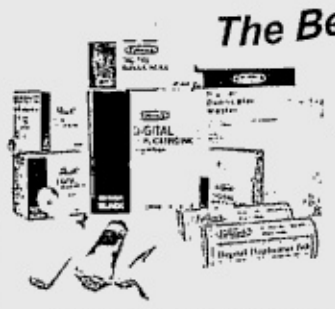
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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

JUDICIAL ETHICS—Conduct of a court employee—The court finds the respondent administratively liable for improper solicitation and thus imposes the penalty prescribed by prevailing rules and jurisprudence, which is dismissal from service on the first offense. Time and time again, we have stressed that the behavior of all employees and officials involved in the administration of justice, from judges to the most junior clerks, is circumscribed with a heavy responsibility. Their conduct must be guided by strict propriety and decorum at all times in order to merit and maintain the public's respect for and trust in the judiciary. Needless to say, all court personnel must conduct themselves in a manner exemplifying integrity, honesty and uprightness. The respondent's act of demanding money from the complainant hardly meets the foregoing standard. Improper solicitation from litigants is a grave offense that carries an equally grave penalty. [Citations omitted.] [En Banc, Resolution, Per Curiam, Villaros vs Orpiano, A.M. No. P-02-1548. October 1, 2003]

BY R. B. VERA

FPJ touts experience

By Christine O. Avendaño and Gil Cabacungan Jr.

SANTIAGO, Isabela—He may have spent little time in the classroom and no business school diploma decorates his wall.

But Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino standard-bearer Fernando Poe Jr. said he was not only an actor but a businessman at the helm of a successful film-making company. Deflecting criticism from President Macapagal-Arroyo who had scoffed at reports that the actor had taken a crash course in economics in preparation for the presidency, and irked at insinuations that he was the cause of the continuing fall of the peso, Poe told reporters he had enough experience running his company, FPJ Productions, which he had put up "with perseverance and through my own sweat."

Told that the peso had dropped to its lowest ever against the dollar in the country's history, Poe said he was not to blame. *"Sana harapin nila ang katotohanan. Sila ang nakaupo at hindi naman ako,"* he said. (I wish they would face the facts. They are the ones in power, not me).

President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday warned that the peso would remain under siege as the political campaign heats up, but assured the public that her administration had the means to arrest the local currency's slide.

"We have the economic tools to stabilize the peso and make sure politics does not override our efforts," said Ms Macapagal a day after she took a direct hand in halting the peso's fall. The peso fell to a historic low of P56.35 to the dollar Friday on rising political tension and fears of civil unrest arising from the possible disqualification of Poe because of questions on his citizenship.

President Macapagal earlier said candidates without the necessary experience would scare off investors, and what the country needs is a leader with experience. *With an AP report*

GMA favors smaller, quieter crowds

By Volt Contreras

THE CROWDS are smaller and there is very little cheering and shouting.

But Malacañang officials are hoping the tactic will work for President Macapagal-Arroyo, now into her second week of campaigning in the countryside.

The new strategy of holding a chain of small-town meetings or "pulong bayan" rather than mounting big loud rallies at every stop marked the start of the President's campaign on Feb. 10, according to Social Welfare Secretary Corazon Soliman, who is coordinates Ms Macapagal's itinerary. The more time she can spend with small crowds, the better the President can shake off her image of being a snob, she added.

Soliman said the President prefers speaking more frequently before small gatherings since such a setting makes for "intelligent discussions" with the locals and does not reduce them to mere cheering throngs. "It doesn't have the hoopla you associate with big crowds, and it's one way she recognizes the intelligence of the D and E crowd," she said.

Poe vows fair trial for Estrada

By Christine O. Avendaño

SANTIAGO, Isabela—Opposition candidate Fernando Poe Jr. yesterday promised a fair trial for deposed President Joseph Estrada if he wins the elections, but hinted he could do no more for his close friend.

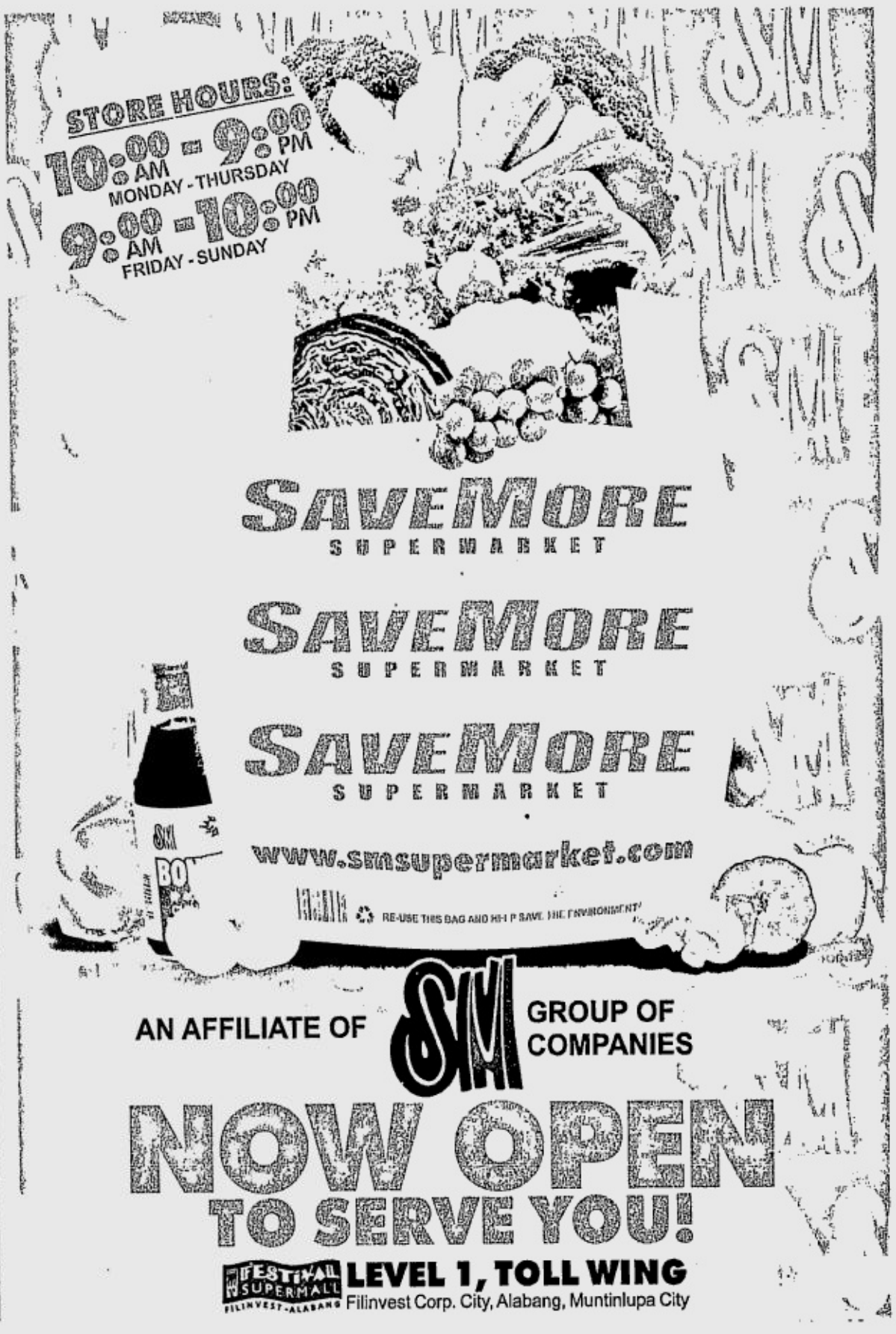
"Ang pinakamalapit na maiibibigay ko kay(The closest thing I can give) Erap is a fair trial," said Poe, when he was asked in a dzRH radio interview how he would handle the Estrada cases being tried before the Sandiganbayan.

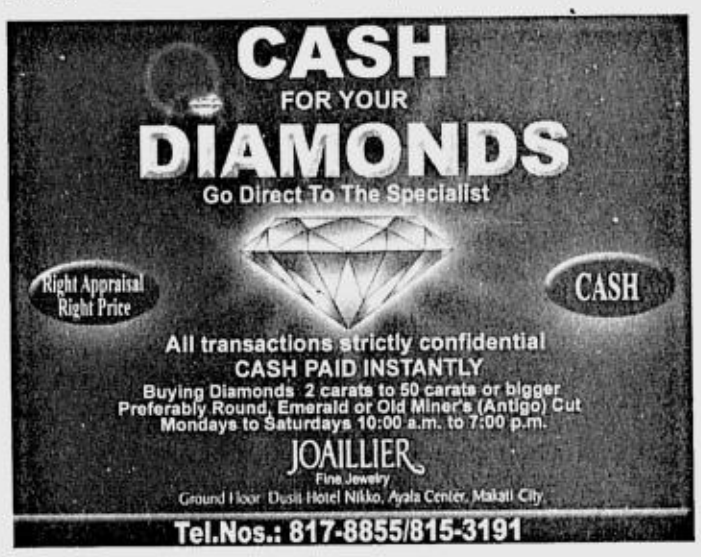
Poe said the cases were in court and would continue to be tried. He did not elaborate.

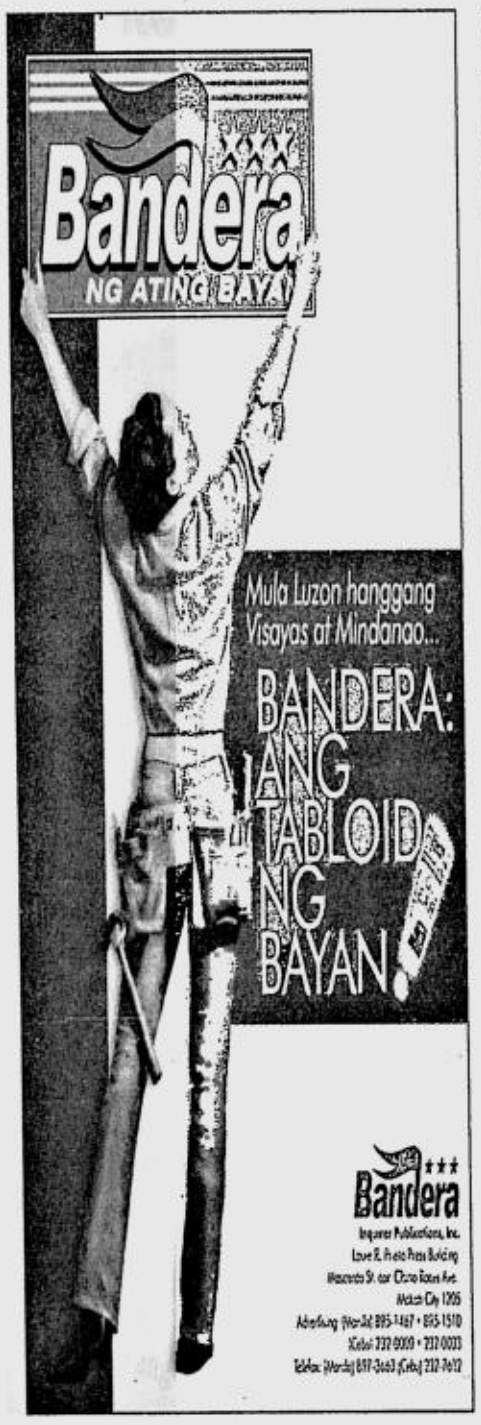
To reporters who interviewed him later, Poe said everybody deserved a fair trial.

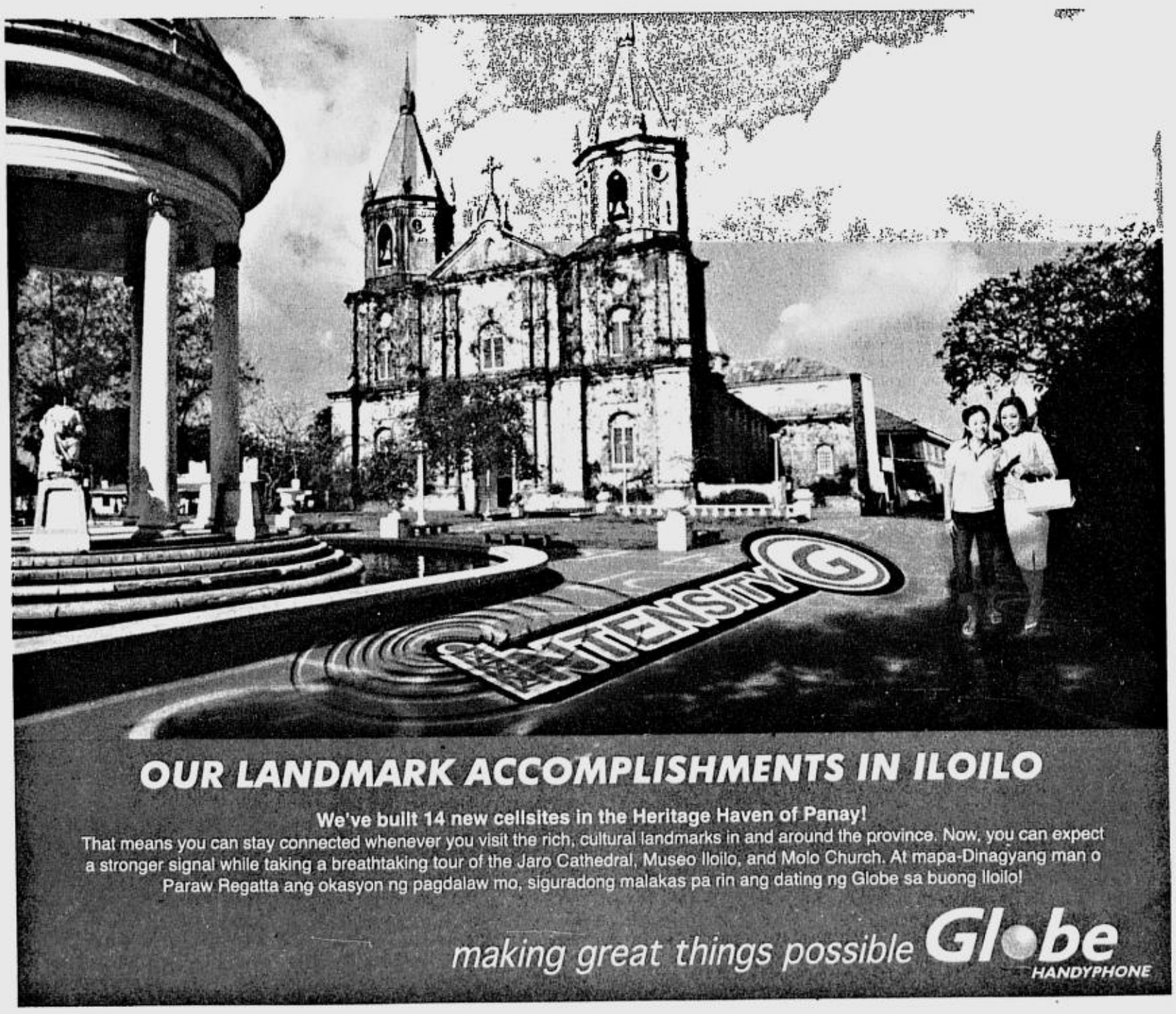
"Kahit mahirap at mayaman, lahat bigyan natin ng (fair trial), dapat pantay-pantay," Poe said. (Rich or poor, we should give everyone a fair trial.)

Poe, together with running mate Sen. Loren Legarda and 11 senatorial candidates of the Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino, wind up their campaign in the North with a rally today in Tuguegarao, Cagayan. Yesterday, they motored to the towns of Echague, Alicia and Cauayan in Isabela drawing crowds and stopping traffic. *With an AP report*









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PDI PHOTO

FEB. 22, 1986, 6:45 p.m.: Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile and AFP Vice Chief of Staff Fidel Ramos hold a press conference to announce their withdrawal from the Marcos regime not to seize power, they say, but to recognize Cory Aquino as the duly-elected president of the "snap" election of Feb. 7.

Day One, Feb. 22, 1986

From page A1

2 a.m.: Armed Forces chief Fabian Ver fortifies Palace, having been informed of impending coup by Maj. Edgardo Doromal of the Presidential Security Command.

Doromal was tapped by RAM leader Col. Gregorio Honasan, Enrile's most trusted aide, to serve as a spy in the Palace. But an unnerved Doromal confessed to his commander, Col. Irwin Ver, son of the AFP chief. Irwin told his father, who in turn convinced Doromal to become a double agent.

3 a.m.: Meeting at Enrile's Dasmariñas house in Makati is about to wrap up. Honasan learns that a Marine battalion is positioned exactly at rebels' planned point of attack.

9 a.m.: On Ver's instruction, Metropolitan Command officer Col. Rolando Abadilla tries to talk Honasan out of any rash action.

10 a.m.: Honasan learns that more soldiers are being deployed to guard Palace. Trade Minister Roberto Ongpin calls Enrile to say that his 19 security men have been arrested. Enrile worries because some of those men knew of coup plot.

Noon: In Malacañang, President Ferdinand Marcos meets with US Ambassador Stephen Bosworth and Philip Habib, US President Ronald Reagan's "trouble-shooter." The two Americans note worsening political crisis and push for Ver's removal from office.

Honasan and Lt. Col. Eduardo Kapunan arrive at Enrile's house; they tell him of orders to round up all members of their movement. Between hiding in Cagayan Valley and regrouping for possible stand-off, Enrile chooses the latter and tells everyone to go to Camp Aguinaldo.

12:45 p.m.: Capt. Ricardo Morales becomes first of four alleged assassins arrested by Marcos forces. The others are Maj. Saulito Aromin, Lt. Col. Jake Malajacan and Maj. Ricardo Brillantes.

2 p.m.: Before boarding his plane out, Habib says: "Cory [Aquino] won the election [on Feb. 7, 1986] and deserves our support. Marcos is finished, and we ought to offer him asylum in the US."

Enrile and RAM discuss how to cover up their coup plot in order to drum up support for themselves. Enrile calls AFP vice chief Gen. Fidel Ramos, who declares his full support.

3 p.m.: Honasan gives signal to put his men on combat-ready stance. He, Enrile and Kapunan fly to Aguinaldo in a chopper.

3:30 p.m.: At Aguinaldo, Enrile's guards bring out brand-new M-16s, Uzis and Galils. Enrile orders troop deployment around Camp Crame. On the phone, he tells his wife Cristina to call INQUIRER founding chair Eugenia Apostol to apprise her of what's happening and request her to inform Jaime Cardinal Sin.

4:30 p.m.: Brig. Gen. Salvador Mison's Regional Unified Command No. 8, which includes First Lady Imelda Marcos' native Leyte, expresses support for the rebels—the first military region to do so.

5 p.m.: Unaware of events unfolding, Ver and Imelda attend wedding of a general's son at Villamor Air Base. Ver is stunned when told.

Marcos calls his three children to Malacañang.

Enrile tells Sin: "I will be dead within one hour. I don't want to die... If it is possible, do something. I'd still like to live."

6 p.m.: Ramos arrives at Aguinaldo after dialogue in his Alabang house with group called Cory Crusaders.

6:45 p.m.: Ramos and Enrile hold press conference to announce withdrawal of support from Marcos. They say they are not out to seize power but to return it to the people in the person of Corazon Aquino, whom they recognize as the rightfully elected President.

They have less than 500 men and no air, armor or artillery equipment.

Ramos moves to Crame. Former AFP chief Romeo Espino, Brig. Gen. Ramon Farolan and Postmaster General Roilo Golez arrive at Aguinaldo.

7 p.m.: Marcos remains in Palace study room with Fabian and Irwin Ver and Information Minister Gregorio Cendaña.

8:15 p.m.: Ver orders military intelligence chief Brig. Gen. Fidel Singson to destroy Radio Veritas. Singson deploys men but orders them not to take offensive action. He prepares to join Ramos-Enrile forces.

9 p.m.: Over Radio Veritas, Sin calls for public support of Enrile and Ramos. Enrile ends phone conversation with Ver, who denies plans to arrest the rebels.

9:30 p.m.: Col. Antonio Sotelo of Air Force 15th Strike Wing readies all five attack helicopters at Villamor in support of defectors.

10 p.m.: Radio Veritas continues with blow-by-blow account of rebellion. Enrile and Aquino, who is secured in the Carmelite convent in Cebu City, have brief phone conversation. (Aquino had known of Enrile's coup plans.)

In Malacañang, Imelda tells reporters of plot to kill her and Marcos at 12:30 a.m.

10:20 p.m.: August Twenty-One Movement's Agapito "Butz" Aquino, despite his group's decision to wait, throws his support behind rebels and calls on volunteers to meet him at Isetann Cubao preparatory to marching to Edsa.

10:30 p.m.: Marcos announces over government-owned Channel 4 that he is in total control of situation. Nuns and seminarians of Bandila, a moderate coalition, are first to form human barricade around Crame. Superstar Nora Aunor arrives at Edsa.

Food starts arriving in response to Enrile's appeal that while they are ready to die for country, they have no food for the troops.

11 p.m.: Enrile tells Marcos over Radio Veritas: "Enough is enough, Mr. President. Your time is up. Do not miscalculate our strength now."

Kris Aquino, then disco-hopping, is found after frantic search and reunited with her mother; both are taken to Carmelite convent.

11:30 p.m.: Ver orders power and water lines at Aguinaldo and Crame cut, but he is ignored.

Crowd at Edsa swells.

Officials who withdraw support for Marcos: Lt. Col. Jerry Albano and his Security and Escort Battalion of 200 officers and men. *(To be continued)*

Imelda wanted it all

From page A1

by the Supreme Court in July 2003, declaring the funds ill-gotten and ordering them forfeited, the escrow account had grown to $683 million.

Cobarrubias believes that this account of her role in the attempt to implement the 1993 compromise agreement and withdraw the $356 million, and why it failed, will "complete the story of the $683 million Marcos Swiss deposits" and serve as "a true closure on the issue of the [Marcos] ill-gotten wealth."

Out of reach

In 1994, the $356 million Marcos deposits remained frozen in the Swiss banks, beyond the reach of either the Philippine government or the Marcoses.

Armed with the December 1993 secret agreement providing for a 75-25 percent sharing of Marcos assets, the Ramos government through the PCGG started discussions with the Marcos family in 1994 on how they could withdraw the $356 million.

Imelda ally Cobarrubias was designated by Imelda as her representative in the secret negotiations in Manila and Switzerland with PCGG chief Gunigundo, the Marcoses' Swiss lawyers and the PCGG's own Swiss lawyers.

Cobarrubias furnished the INQUIRER a copy of a Feb. 28, 1995 letter in Imelda's handwriting to her Swiss lawyer, Patrick Foetisch, saying that Cobarrubias and retired Brig. Gen. Galileo Kintanar were her authorized negotiators with President Ramos and that the two were "instrumental in bringing everyone together."

Kintanar connection

Kintanar, who belongs to the Philippine Military Academy Class of 1960, was the chief of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces from 1987 until his retirement in 1990. He became a consultant to the PCGG during the Ramos administration.

In the 2001 polls, Kintanar ran for party list representative under the Marcos Loyalists but the group was disqualified as it was categorized as a "cult".

Kintanar's name was dragged into the Nida Blanca murder case in 2001 when it was found that Philip Medel Jr., the actress' confessed killer who later retracted his confession, had rented an apartment allegedly owned by the general.

The 1993 agreement—which came to public knowledge after Marcos lawyer Simeon M. Mesina Jr. filed a petition with the Sandiganbayan in April 1995 calling for its immediate implementation through the dismissal of the cases against the Marcoses—was signed in secret by Gunigundo after a series of meetings with members and representatives of the Marcos family, Imelda and her children Imee, Irene and Ferdinand Jr.

The deal provided for the dropping of all criminal and civil charges against the Marcoses in exchange for the disclosure of all their assets here and abroad and their help in their recovery.

It also provided for the Marcoses' exemption from tax liability of all the assets that they would retain.

Daring strategy

The agreement was considered a daring strategy as it appeared to cover all the assets—even the undiscovered ones like the alleged $13.2 billion Irene Araneta account and the highly incredible 1,200-ton Marcos gold hoard at Zurich's Kloten airport—and not just the $356 million uncovered by the PCGG and ordered frozen by the Swiss Supreme Court.

According to Cobarrubias, the operation to withdraw the $356 million was not just to avoid the lengthy judicial litigation and enforce the 1993 agreement but for Imelda to get hold of the entire amount.

Cobarrubias said she was assigned by Imelda to coordinate with Bruno de Preux, the Swiss lawyer of the late dictator.

De Preux and his partner, a certain Tavernier, twice came to the Philippines in February and March 1994 to meet with Gunigundo and work out the mechanics of withdrawing the money, she said.

She said De Preux was initially reluctant to participate in the negotiations because he was owed his legal fees but Cobarrubias said she was able to convince him. She said she paid for De Preux's and his partner's travel expenses.

To Switzerland

The Swiss lawyer assured Imelda everything would be settled in less than a month but April and May came and went and nothing was happening, so Imelda sent Cobarrubias to Switzerland.

Her instructions were to stay in Zurich and wait for the "entire amount" to be withdrawn from the bank. She ended up staying from May until September 1994.

Cobarrubias said the main obstacle was the lack of an authorization letter—which she called a *note verbale*— from Imelda instructing her lawyers in Switzerland to withdraw all opposition against the transfer of the frozen deposits to the Philippines.

Dilly-dallying

For reasons that would only be clear to her later, Cobarrubias said Imelda was dilly-dallying in issuing the letter of authorization.

De Preux also cited another reason: the 10,000 human rights abuse victims who won a $1.9-billion award in a class action suit they brought against the Marcos estate in a United States court in the 1990s.

"According to De Preux, the banks were worried because the human rights victims also had a claim [on the deposits]," she said. *(Tomorrow: Imelda makes new demands)*

Gloria: I am the true daughter of Pangasinan

From page A1

next to Cebu, is "FPJ country" because its standard-bearer Fernando Poe Jr. was born there.

President Macapagal-Arroyo insists that she is the "true daughter of Pangasinan" because she speaks the language.

"To those who are claiming to be from Pangasinan, I speak Ilocano and I speak [Pangalatok]," she said in a press conference yesterday at the Binalonan town hall. "I am a genuine Pangasinense."

While she is more identified with her father's home province of Pampanga, Ms Macapagal has deep family roots in Pangasinan.

Her mother was born in Lingayen and grew up in Binalonan; her grandmother was born in San Carlos.

But San Carlos also happens to be Poe's birthplace.

Speaker Jose de Venecia, who, along with Gov. Victor Agbayani, accompanied Ms Macapagal in her Pangasinan sortie, expressed confidence that the people of the province would identify more with her than with Poe.

1.2M voters

Ms Macapagal yesterday made her first incursion into Pangasinan which has 1.2 million voters after a relatively warm reception Friday in Zambales province, where she had a rousing proclamation rally in Olongapo.

But Poe's hometown was conspicuously missing from her grueling itinerary.

According to Renato Diaz, the President's assistant for Northern Luzon affairs, Pangasinan is so big that she has to make three or four visits there.

He said the President would go to San Carlos in her succeeding visits to the province.

Blitz

After wrapping up the Zambales-Olongapo leg at 8 p.m. Friday, Ms Macapagal blitzed through the Pangasinan towns of Sta. Cruz, Infanta, Dasol, Burgos, Bani, Alaminos, Lingayen, Dagupan and Manaoag.

In Manaoag, she visited the Philippine National Police stations as part of governance, and not as part of her campaign.

She called it a day only at 3 a.m. yesterday, and rested briefly at the residence of her cousin, Binalonan Mayor Ramon Guico, who heads the League of Municipalities of the Philippines.

Ms Macapagal rose at 6 a.m. and was soon back on the road, touching base with the folk in Asingan, San Manuel, San Nicolas and Rosales.

The hectic tour ended at 3 p.m.

VAL HANDUMON

A TOUCHING encounter for President Macapagal during her early Saturday morning campaign in Manaoag, Pangasinan.

EDWIN BACASMAS

MOBBED by supporters, Fernando Poe Jr. appears to be barely hanging on during his sortie from Santiago to Cauayan, Isabela.

Gov't, MILF to resume peace talks in April

Dental records confirm body missing Pinay's

CRUZ

NEW YORK—A body found encased in a concrete floor at the home of a man who had posed as a doctor was identified as the remains of a missing Filipino woman who had sought his help.

Dental records helped identify the body of financial analyst Maria Pilar Cruz, 35, who disappeared in April 2003 around the time she had sought treatment for a black growth on her tongue.

The decomposing body was found Wednesday crammed in a suitcase buried in a slab platform at Dean Faiello's former home in Newark, New Jersey. The body matched Cruz's description, police said.

Faiello was arrested in 2002 for practicing medicine without a license and illegally possessing medical drugs, but he apparently continued to see patients. He pleaded guilty in June 2003 to the charges but fled to Costa Rica before his scheduled sentencing in December, authorities said. He remained a fugitive Friday.

Cruz, who was born in the Philippines and became a naturalized US citizen in March 2002, was an analyst for the banking division of Barclays Bank. *AP*

By Gil Cabacungan Jr.

THE GOVERNMENT and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) have agreed to resume stalled peace talks in April in Malaysia in a bid to finally end the decades-old conflict which has ravaged Mindanao.

"I would like to announce that peace has gained another milestone as the government and the MILF have agreed to resume formal peace talks in April after an impasse of more than a year," President Macapagal-Arroyo said in a statement.

The government and the MILF began tentative negotiations in Malaysia on Thursday aimed at removing obstacles to resuming formal talks to end the 32-year separatist war.

"All obstacles to final peace negotiations have been overcome. The level of violence has been reduced to almost nil and international confidence is high," the President said.

Ms Macapagal said both panels had agreed to the immediate deployment of an international team to monitor the cease-fire between government troops and MILF rebels, and to support the World Bank and the international donor community in the assessment phase of the multi-donor trust fund that would pour in massive rehabilitation and development aid in the conflict-affected areas once a peace accord was signed.

Eid Kabalu, MILF spokesperson, said formal peace negotiations are expected to begin "towards the end of April." "It's a positive development," he told Reuters. "We really never expected a great outcome from these exploratory talks. It was a complete success."

Kabalu said the repositioning of troops from a rebel enclave in Mindanao early this week helped convince the MILF the government was sincere in finding a lasting solution to the armed conflict in Mindanao.

Last Tuesday, the military pulled out a contingent of Army and Marine soldiers from the rebels' Buliok complex, a marshy area in central Mindanao used as a sanctuary by guerrillas and criminal groups.

Ms Macapagal said this would be the final round of peace talks to end the separatist war in Mindanao which began in the 1970s.

The government and the MILF have been engaged in on-and-off peace negotiations since late 1997 in an effort to end the conflict that has killed more than 120,000 people. *With reports from Reuters, AFP, AP*

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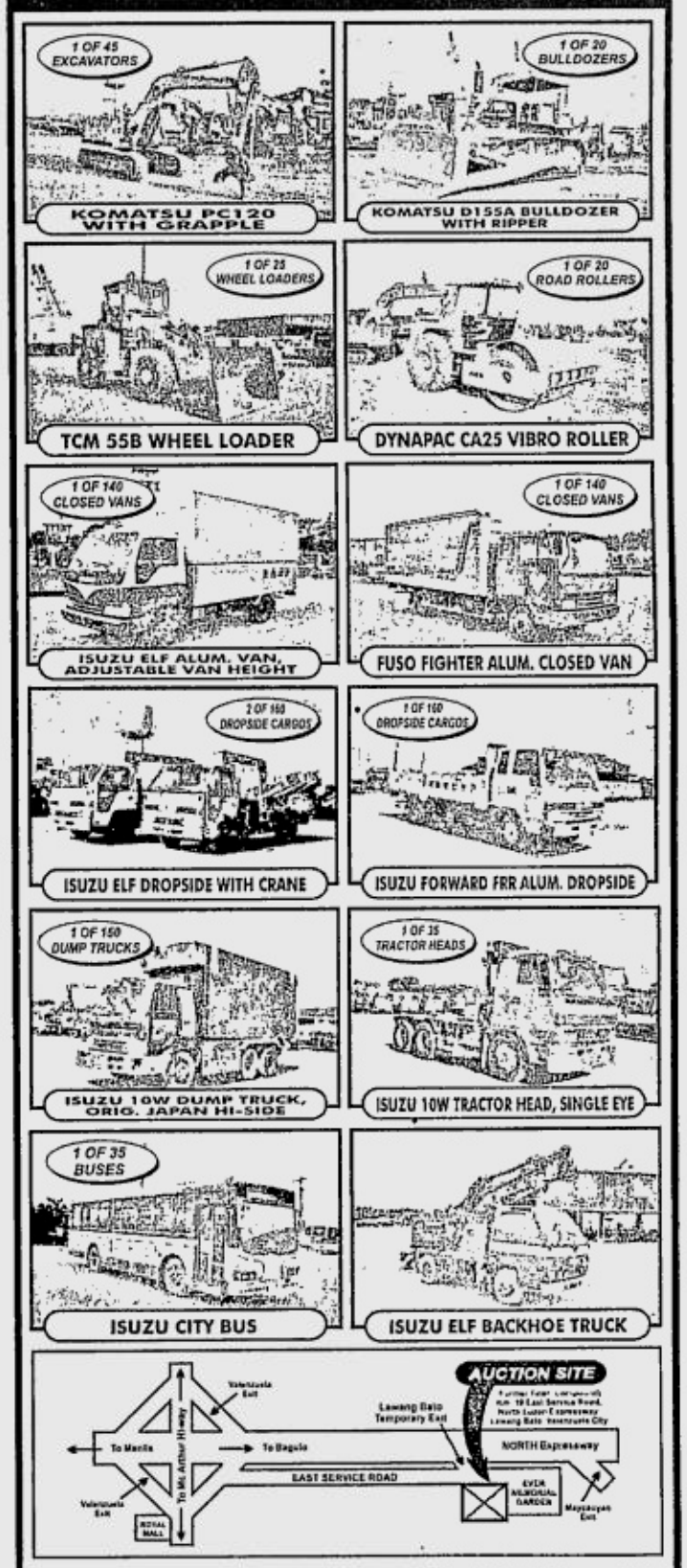

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2004

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Bird flu in cats poses little risk for humans–WHO

BANGKOK—The World Health Organization (WHO) downplayed Friday fears that the discovery in cats of a bird flu which has killed at least 22 people in Thailand and Vietnam posed increased risks for humans.

The deadly H5N1 strain of the virus was detected in a leopard, a tiger and two domestic cats in Thailand, scientists in the kingdom said.

"This is the first time in the world that we have found bird flu in cats and tigers," said Therapol Sirinaruemitr from Bangkok's Kasetsart University.

"One clouded leopard has already died and one white tiger is still alive and has recovered," he said, referring to animals kept at a private zoo east of Bangkok.

The WHO said the detection of the deadly bird flu in the cat family probably posed no risk to humans.

"While conclusions are premature ... infection in cats is not considered likely to enhance the present risks to human health," it said in a statement.

"Nor is it likely to influence the future evolution of the outbreak in humans in any significant way," it said.

The WHO said investigations were under way and that "no firm conclusions can be made at present" about the developments.

The H5N1 strain has hit eight Asian nations, with weaker varieties detected in Taiwan, Pakistan and the United States. On Thursday, Canada also reported a less virulent strain in the western province of British Columbia.

Thailand, China and the United States reported new outbreaks Friday.

Thai authorities announced four new cases in two provinces, widening a major resurgence of the disease which authorities said had sprung up again in 14 other locations where it was thought to be eradicated.

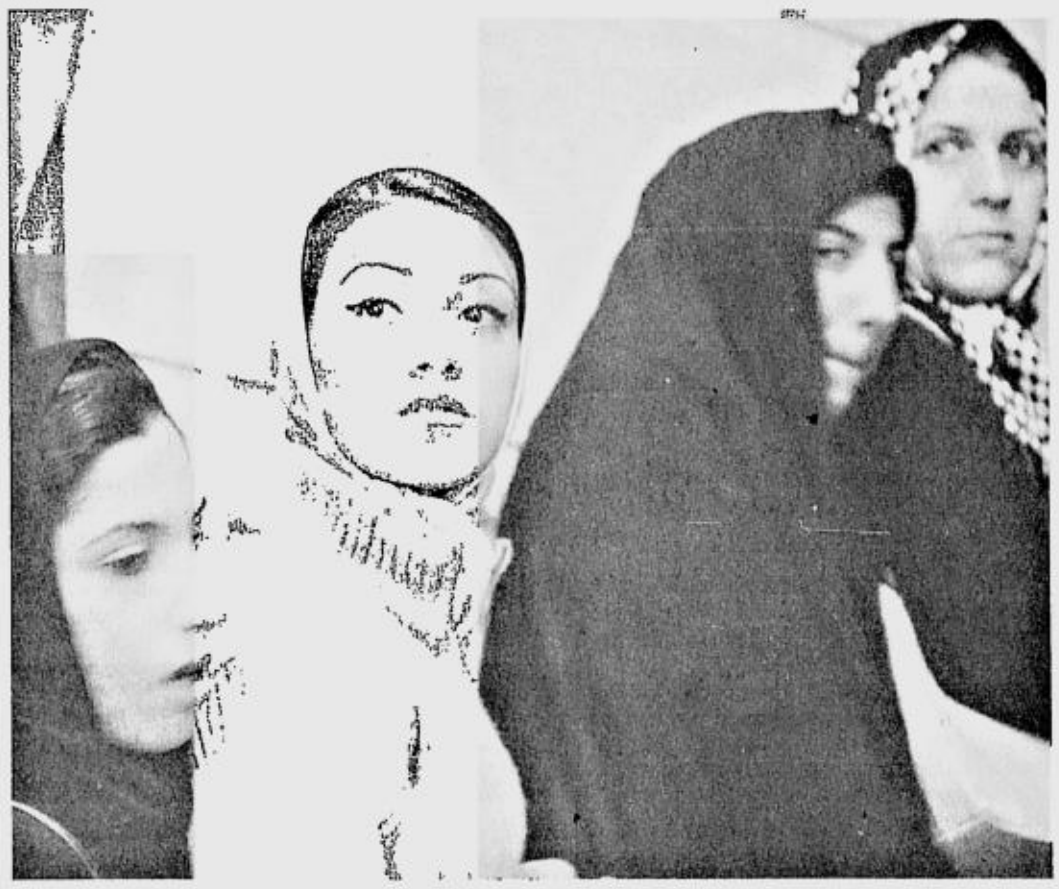
Thailand is mopping up infections among poultry in 10 of its 76 provinces and has shelved plans to declare itself free of the virus at the end of this month and begin rebuilding its devastated poultry industry.

China meanwhile reported two new confirmed cases, bringing the tally to 48 outbreaks in more than half its provincial-level regions.

Texas became the fourth US state to be hit with the virus following outbreaks in Delaware, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, authorities there said.

The strain, H5N2, "poses no health threat to humans and causes relatively low mortality in chickens," Bob Hillman, Texas state veterinarian, said.

The WHO has warned the deadly H5N1 strain of bird flu could kill millions around the globe if it combined with a human influenza virus to create a new highly contagious strain transmissible among humans. *AFP*



IRANIAN women wait in line on stairs at a polling station in Tehran Feb. 20. Polling stations across Iran opened for parliamentary elections expected to see religious conservatives tighten their grip over the Islamic republic after most reformist candidates were barred from standing. AFP

Iran conservatives take early lead in controversial election

TEHRAN—Iranian religious conservatives grabbed an early lead Saturday as vote counting started in controversial parliamentary elections that is expected to return the legislature to hardline Islamic control.

Official sources said reformists had only managed to win nine of the first 60 seats decided in Friday's race for the 290-seat Majlis, or parliament, where they had seized a three-quarters majority four years ago.

State media said partial results from several other districts also showed a strong showing for conservatives, who had been expected to romp home after powerful hardliners disqualified most reformist candidates.

Definitive results were not expected before Sunday.

There was no immediate word on how of Iran's 46.3 million eligible voters cast ballots, a crucial element with the clerical regime hoping for a large turnout to make their victory credible in the face of a boycott by most reformists.

But the conservative press here Saturday already forecast a decent enough showing to thwart the boycott drive and refute criticism from the United States and elsewhere that the polls were undemocratic.

The hardline Jomhuri Islami daily heralded a "gigantic participation" and the conservative Siyasat Rouz trumpeted, "Once again the Iranian people have defied the predictions of the foreigners."

The conservatives, who have wielded the most power in Iran since the Islamic revolution 25 years, ago were set to add the parliament to the already long list of political and security institutions under their control.

Many voters appeared to have been lured by right-wing pledges to focus their efforts on reviving a stagnant economy and promises not to impose puritanical Islamic regulation as feared by moderates.

After winning a landslide four years ago, reformers have been subjected to mounting criticism for their failure to deliver greater democracy or a focused effort to combat high unemployment and inflation.

The main conservative bloc expected to do well was the Coalition of Builders of Islamic Iran, a grouping presenting itself as a pragmatic force of well-educated technocrats.

Senior figures in the regime campaigned against a call by prominent outgoing reformers for a boycott, playing on nationalist and Islamic sentiment by calling each ballot cast a "bullet into the heart" of US President George W. Bush.

The elections have capped a frustrating legislative mandate for the reformists, who captured three-quarters of the Majlis seats in 2000 with a huge wave of public support but then saw fundamentalist clerics block proposed changes at virtually every turn.

The widely-expected conservative win would leave reformist President Mohammad Khatami as one of the few moderates left in public office. *AFP*

Envoys work to ease tensions in Haiti as missionaries flee

PORT-AU-PRINCE—As missionaries and aid workers scrambled to flee revolt-torn Haiti on Friday, opposition leaders prepared to meet with US, Canadian and regional diplomats trying to ease political tensions and broker an end to the violence.

Some opposition leaders warned they would not accept any peace plan that does not include the resignation of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide—signaling a possible continuation of a three-year standoff.

As the first serious diplomatic efforts began to help this polarized and lawless Caribbean country of 8 million make peace, American missionaries and aid workers clogged the airport in the capital, Port-au-Prince, waiting for flights.

Washington on Thursday advised its citizens to leave the country.

Haiti's long-standing political dispute spiraled into crisis two weeks ago when an armed gang took over the city of Gonaives in a revolt that spread to several towns in the north and on the central plateau, and has been joined by former soldiers and a death squad leader.

Armed government supporters and police are fighting back, often executing suspected rebel sympathizers.

The opposition Democratic Platform was to hold talks with diplomats from the United States, Canada, France, the Organization of American States and Caribbean Community (Caricom) on Friday to lay the groundwork for a peace mission on Saturday.

The international delegation's proposal appears to be based on a recent deal brokered by Caricom that calls for the establishment of a broad-based advisory council, a new prime minister and the disarming of gangs aligned with Aristide's Lavalas Family party.

"I hope they're not coming back with the same position," said Charles Baker, a wealthy industrialist and fervent foe of Aristide. The president led Haiti into democracy after decades of dictatorship but now faces accusations of corruption and political violence.

"We'll both be wasting our time," Baker said.

Evans Paul, of the opposition coalition Group of 184, said the political opposition was distinct from the armed gangs and former soldiers who now control a swathe of the north after kicking out police in a rebellion that has killed more than 50 people.

The revolt has heightened pressure on Aristide, who dismisses the opposition as a wealthy mulatto elite intent on maintaining its dominance over Haiti's legions of poor.

"As days go by, (the opposition) gets stronger and stronger. If Aristide leaves, it might be under force of arms.

We hope he will leave peacefully and voluntarily," Paul said.

The rebellion was sparked by a gang that once acted as enforcers for Aristide and have now declared an independent "country" in areas where they wrested control from the government. It capped a three-year political impasse over parliamentary elections in 2000 that were declared flawed.

Aristide, a former parish priest ousted by a military coup shortly after first taking office in 1991 but restored in a US-led invasion three years later, won a second term of office that year. The 2000 presidential elections were boycotted by the opposition.

While fighting has not reached Port-au-Prince, the occasional gunshot can be heard at night in the capital, where princely mansions on lush mountaintops overlook the sprawling shanties where most of the city's 2-million people live in abject poverty.

The Pentagon is sending a team of military advisors to review security at the US Embassy. *Reuters*

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Hubble measurements support Einstein prediction

LOS ANGELES—The mysterious "dark energy" that is pushing apart the universe appears to be the constant force that Albert Einstein once predicted, according to measurements made by the Hubble Space Telescope.

NASA scientists announced their findings Friday, and details are to appear in an upcoming issue of Astrophysical Journal.

The force is an unknown form of energy that behaves in an opposite manner from the pull of gravity. Dark energy causes the galaxies within the universe to move apart from one another at ever-increasing speeds.

Einstein called the force the "cosmological constant." He theorized its existence to balance the universe against normal gravity and keep it from collapsing on itself.

Einstein ultimately dismissed the theory as his greatest blunder, but subsequent observations of supernovas, or distant stars that exploded long ago, gave it credence. Scientists now know dark energy causes the universe to expand and accelerate. It makes up an estimated 70 percent of the universe.

What was unclear is whether dark energy is stable.

If it grows stronger with time, the universe could end with galaxies, stars, planets and ,ultimately, atoms coming unglued in a violent expansion that theorists call the "big rip."

In the alternative, dark energy could fade away to the point where it flipped in force, pulling the universe back together in what's called the "big crunch."

The latest Hubble observations announced Friday suggest dark energy is unwavering, just as Einstein predicted.

"Right now, we're about twice as confident than before that Einstein's cosmological constant is real, or at least dark energy does not appear to be changing fast enough—if at all—to cause an end to the universe anytime soon," said Adam Riess, of the Space Telescope Science Institute in Baltimore, which looks at data sent from the Hubble.

Even if Einstein was wrong, dark energy won't spell an end to the universe for at least another 30 billion years, scientists said.

The latest results come from the measurements of multiple supernovas that exploded when the universe was half its present age of nearly 14 billion years.

The apparent brightness of a certain type of supernova allows scientists to gauge the expansion rate of the universe at different times in the past. That in turn allows them to measure any change in the strength of the force exerted by dark energy.

Further research is needed to prove dark energy is indeed a constant force, scientists said.

However, NASA's decision to no longer repair Hubble means the work will be interrupted until a replacement can be built and launched. *AP*

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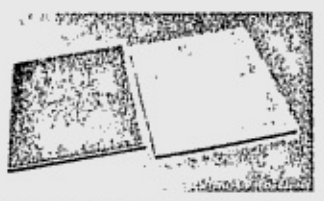

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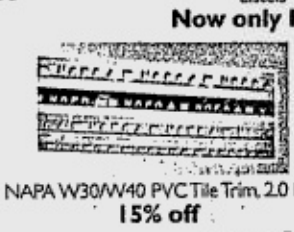

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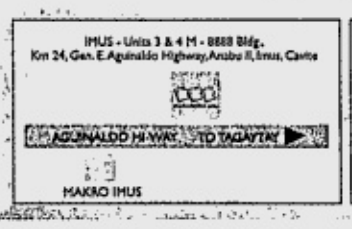

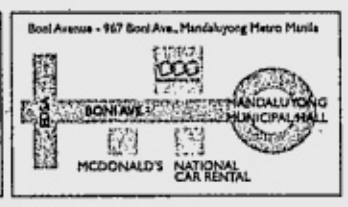

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Millions changed hands in nuke trafficking, say Malaysia police

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia— The father of Pakistan's nuclear program sold uranium enrichment equipment to Iran for $3 million and signed lucrative contracts for Libya as part of a thriving black market in nuclear arms, according to a Malaysian police report.

The report—based on interviews with one of the operation's purported middlemen, Buhary Syed Abu Tahir,—reveals details about alleged deals between Pakistan, Iran and Libya.

It lays out details of a network which appears to have included a company partly owned by the son of Malaysia's prime minister, as well as British and Swiss middlemen.

Tahir, a 44-year-old Sri Lankan, says he was one of several people who helped Abdul Qadeer Khan, the father of Pakistan's nuclear weapons program, sell nuclear technology. Khan confessed this month to leaking the technology to Iran, Libya and North Korea.

Malaysia's investigation into Tahir began after a company controlled by Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi's son was said to have unwittingly supplied the network.

Deputy Prime Minister Najib Razak said the investigation absolved Malaysia of any knowing role in the network.

"What we have said has been totally vindicated," he told reporters Saturday. "And we hope that we can put the issue at rest."

Police said the 12-page investigation report, released Friday, will be given to the UN's International Atomic Energy Agency. Malaysia urged the agency to investigate European individuals and companies.

US President George W. Bush singled out Tahir and Malaysia last week in a speech urging tougher international regulations.

US officials have asked Malaysia to bring its export control system in line with international standards.

"To the extent that we can be careful, I believe we will do it," Najib said Saturday. He didn't say whether regulations would be toughened.

The report, citing Tahir, spells out deals between Khan's operatives to sell nuclear equipment to Iran for $3 million, and to supply a uranium compound to Libya.

According to Tahir, Libya approached Khan in 1997 for help in building a uranium enrichment program. Negotiations began in Turkey between the Pakistani scientist and a Libyan identified as Mohamad Matuq Mohamad, the report said.

Around 2001, Khan told Tahir that "a certain amount" of uranium and then a number of centrifuge units were flown from Pakistan to Libya, it said.

Centrifuges are machines that can be used to enrich uranium for nuclear weapons or nuclear power.

What Khan's network couldn't get for Libya, it helped the country build, sending machines and technicians to set up centrifuge-making operations and calling it "Project Machine Shop 1001," according to Tahir's account.

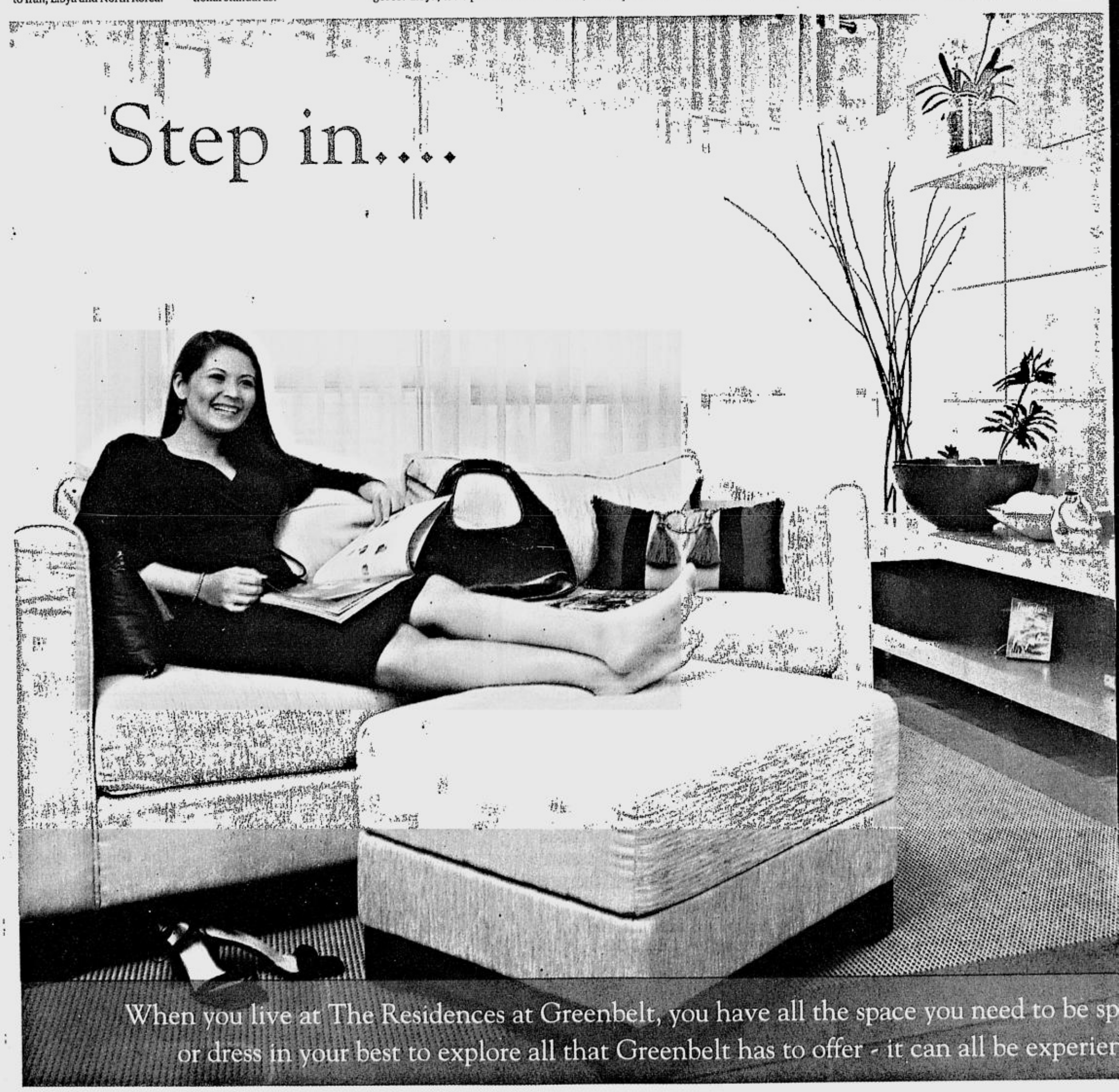
Late last year, Libya acknowledged trying to develop weapons of mass destruction—and pledged to scrap them. Iran denies ever having had such ambitions.

Tahir told police he was recruited to Khan's network in 1994. That year, on Khan's instructions, he arranged for used centrifuge units from Pakistan to be sent to Iran on an Iranian-owned merchant ship, the report said.

An unidentified Iranian paid for the units with about $3 million in dirhams, the United Arab Emirates' currency, it said.

"The cash was brought in two briefcases and kept in an apartment that was used as a guesthouse by the Pakistani nuclear arms expert each time he visited Dubai," the report said. *AP*

CARNIVA QUEEN Priscila Hirle, Queen of Rio's carnival, dances during the official opening ceremony of the carnival in Rio de Janeiro Feb. 20. Thousands of Brazilians and tourists will celebrate during the four-day biggest popular party. AFP



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Red Cross visits Saddam Hussein

GENEVA—Members of the International Committee of the Red Cross visited former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein in US custody in Iraq for the first time since his capture last December, a spokeswoman said Saturday.

Two delegates, one of whom was a doctor, saw Saddam at an undisclosed location in Iraq earlier Saturday, said Nada Doumani, spokeswoman for the ICRC.

"The aim of this visit is to track and monitor the conditions of detention and treatment of the detainee," Doumani said, speaking from Amman, Jordan.

"We want to see whether he is getting enough food and water and also to check his health condition and to give him the possibility to write a message to his family, which he did."

The ICRC is mandated to carry out visits to detainees under the Geneva Conventions on the conduct of warfare, but it will not speak out publicly on the conditions it finds, although it will discuss its findings with the coalition forces holding Saddam.

The fact that the ICRC does not comment "means neither that they are good nor that they are bad," Doumani said.

She said the ICRC would carry out a second visit to Saddam in due course, but she could not say when that would be.

"We will repeat our visits as long as the person is in detention," she said.

She declined to say how long Saturday's visit had been but said it was "long enough to get answers to the important questions."

The US Defense Department determined last month that Saddam was entitled to the designation of prisoner of war because of his status as former commander in chief of Iraq's military.

POW status under the Geneva Conventions grants Saddam certain rights, including ICRC visits and freedom from coercion of any kind during interrogations.

The Geneva treaties prevent POWs from being tried simply for taking up arms against an enemy, but do allow them to be tried for war crimes or crimes against humanity.

The ICRC had been seeking access to Saddam since his capture on Dec. 13, 2003. The ICRC moved many of its international staff out of Iraq following an Oct. 27 bomb attack on its Baghdad headquarters but still has representatives visiting Iraqi detainees.

The neutral Swiss-based agency says it has already visited most if not all of the 43 other high-ranking Iraqis captured by coalition forces, as well as many other prisoners of war and civilian internees.

US civil administrator Paul Bremer, meanwhile, discounted the possibility of elections in Iraq for another year to 15 months as more violence saw another Iraqi killed and four coalition troops wounded in an ambush south of the Iraqi capital.

Two days after UN chief Kofi Annan vetoed any elections prior to June 30, when power is to be transferred to Iraqis, Bremer told al-Arabiya television Iraqis could not go to the polls for technical reasons.

"The main problem is technical ... and this problem will take time ... a year or 15 months," the Arabic-language channel quoted him as saying in a voiceover to an interview.

Bremer noted the absence in Iraq of voter lists or legislation covering elections and political parties as, he said, a visiting UN team had highlighted last week.

"These are major technical difficulties which are an obstacle to elections and make it impossible" to hold them.

Iraq's political future was clouded by Annan's announcement, hours after which US Secretary of State Colin Powell ruled out the original US plan for using unelected caucuses to select the next government, an idea that had strongly been opposed by Iraqi Shiites.

Renewed bloodshed in Iraq claimed the life of an Iraqi translator and wounded four coalition troops, whose nationality was not given, when gunmen ambushed a military convoy south of Baghdad, a US military spokeswoman said. *AP, AFP*

Arnie orders action to halt gay marriages

BURLINGAME, California—After a judge declined to put an immediate end to same-sex marriages in San Francisco, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger ordered California's attorney general to "take immediate steps" to get a court ruling to make the city stop.

Schwarzenegger's directive to Attorney General Bill Lockyer Friday was prompted in part by the judge's decision not to impose a temporary restraining order that would have halted San Francisco's weeklong parade of 3,175 same-sex weddings, said Rob Stutzman, Schwarzenegger's communications director.

"Our civilized society and legal system is based upon a respect for and adherence to the rule of law," Schwarzenegger wrote in a letter to Lockyer. "The City and County of San Francisco's unfortunate choice to disregard state law and grant marriage certificates to gay couples directly undermines this fundamental guarantee."

The Republican governor "feels that we've come to a point where we're starting down a dangerous path and it leads to anarchy at some point," Stutzman said. "It's time for this to end."

Lockyer, an elected Democrat who is a potential candidate in the 2006 governor's race, has said he plans to vigorously defend state laws barring gay marriage.

San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom last week decided to grant same-sex couples marriage licenses, making the city the first in the United States to sanction marriage of gay and lesbian couples. Only the State of Vermont sanctions civil unions between same-sex couples. *AP*

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Talk it out

EDITORIAL

THE POSTURING over presidential debates is tactical. And yet real national interest is at stake. For the sake of the electorate, therefore, the main presidential candidates should set their fears and their plans aside and agree to debate.

Political tactics determined the challenge Alyansa ng Pag-asa standard-bearer Raul Roco issued last Wednesday to President Macapagal-Arroyo of the K-4 coalition and movie actor Fernando Poe Jr., the candidate of the opposition Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino.

The one trailing in the polls always has the most to gain from a debate, which by necessity treats each candidate equally: equal time, equal exposure, equal pressure.

Naturally, the candidate playing catch-up won't admit this. Roco, for instance, disguised his tactical move by offering the President and Poe what in the language is called a *partida,* a decided advantage—in other words, by positioning himself as the man to beat.

"They don't want to show up? OK, I will accept their handicap. We will give them the privileges of being the king and queen," he said. By this he meant allowing the other candidates to show up with two advisers. Poe can even bring a script, he added, in pointed reference to the stereotype of actors unable to do anything without coaching.

The President, through her two official spokespersons, accepted Roco's challenge, but with a caveat.

"The President has nothing to fear because she is always ready to show or explain her program in any forum," Secretary Ignacio Bunye said in a radio interview. Schedules won't be a problem, said Secretary Mike Defensor. "Anytime. If and when [a date is set], the President will graciously attend." With one proviso: all presidential candidates should take part, especially Poe.

Again, tactically, this makes sense from the President's point of view. Because of her campaign positioning as the experienced incumbent seeking continuity, she cannot run away from Roco's challenge. To take on Roco alone, however, would distract her from her objective of overtaking Poe. Hence, an all-or-nothing counter-proposal. This would put her on the same stage as Poe, and at the same time use Roco's challenge to detail her achievements in office.

Poe, naturally, would have nothing to do with any debate. Front-runners usually avoid the debate trap because they have more to lose than gain. This political tactic makes even more sense in Poe's case, because he is reclusive, almost apolitical, by nature.

Naturally, any candidate leading the pack won't admit this. Poe, for instance, suggests there is a need to redefine the traditional debate because it is elitist. "If the debate will be held inside an air-conditioned room, or on television and radio stations, forget it. It's all for show," he said in Filipino. His counter-proposal: Hold a dialogue in economically depressed areas like Payatas in Quezon City, with the public asking the questions.

This redefinition—essentially a pure town-hall format, in debate lingo—plays to his strengths. His base of support, like that of his close friend deposed President Joseph Estrada, consists precisely of communities like Payatas.

But for all the politicians' tactical maneuvering, there is a pressing need for the candidates to come and, to use Lyndon Johnson's favorite expression, reason together.

The May 10 election is shaping up to be the most contentious since the 1986 contest between Ferdinand Marcos and Corazon Aquino. Politics hangs heavy over a dispirited nation. But if the main political rivals come together in lively but civil debate, if an anxious public can see their leaders meet and talk with conviction but without acrimony, the recriminations, the charges and counter-charges of the last several months, might dissipate.

Images won't solve the country's problems, of course. But who can gainsay the power of an indelible image?

It is curious that Poe—himself the product of an image-oriented culture, a candidate who says he seeks to heal the country's divisions—believes that "debates divide people." On the contrary: We need a debate precisely because we are a divided people.

The perils of a Poe presidency

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

SPEAKING as an ordinary citizen with no claim to political savvy, I would say that many of the problems confronting us today can be traced to the candidacy of Fernando Poe Jr. for President of the Philippines. Foremost among these problems is the deteriorating economy that is threatening to make our country the basket case of Asia.

Although not the economic expert that President Macapagal-Arroyo is reputed to be, many people associate the alarming slump of the peso with FPJ's announcement of his availability for the highest office in the land. The Poe candidacy and the probability that it will succeed have frightened many actual and potential investors, local and foreign, from risking their money under his administration.

The masses, or at least the less discriminating among them, are not bothered by such dire speculations. FPJ is Da King of Philippine Movies who always makes his enemies bite the dust with his rapid-fire guns and staccato punches. Their idol can do no wrong. He is the invincible Panday.

They see in FPJ their last hope for salvation as our next president. He will make mincemeat of the nation's problems, including graft in the government, crime in the streets, neglect of education, insufficient health care, dissidence and banditry, and other difficulties past presidents with all their superior credentials have failed to solve.

The *bakya* crowd tends to identify with FPJ because, like its barkers, he too is not a college graduate; in fact, he is only a high school dropout. Their confident argument is that if his erudite predecessors with all their academic degrees have failed to improve their lot, President Poe should be given a chance to do so, and will succeed.

There is, of course, also the possibility that he will fail—which is more likely because of his inferior recommendations—but that does not disturb them. He is their hero, right or wrong, and will not fail them like Erap.

Moreover—and this is the ace up their sleeves—President Poe will not improve their lot by himself alone. Poe will have a staff of expert advisers who will tell him what to do. (One of them is Sen. Tito Sotto, the former TV clown.) "Tell" is purposely used here because that is exactly what they will do to their president who will be like a blind man groping in the light.

One can only wonder why such supposedly responsible leaders as Senators Edgardo Angara and Aquilino Pimentel could be so irresponsible as to inflict Poe on the nation as the next president of the Philippines. They cannot be so obtuse as to not recognize their candidate's obvious incompetence for the high position he presumptuously seeks.

Especially at this time when the country is confronted with virtually insurmountable difficulties, any person with average intelligence—and especially leaders with supposedly superior circumspection—should realize that the election of an intellectual lightweight with no experience at all in the science of government is fraught with grim forebodings.

The less charitable conjecture, and it could be the correct one, is that Poe's supposed advisers are merely setting him up as the apparent president, with them manipulating him from behind the scenes like a puppet on a string. The naïve FPJ would be fair game to these schemers who, unable to win the presidency in their own right, will be using him as a front to achieve their own ends.

Has FPJ read the Constitution of 1987 that he will enforce if he is elected president of the Philippines? How would he define globalization? Will he support the open skies policy? Does he actually understand the pork barrel and its operation? Is he for or against the coalition forces, and why? And what about the death penalty, the rhythm method, divorce, political dynasties, religious electioneering and other debatable issues?

He cannot just say "I don't know" about these vital topics; he must take a categorical and specific stand on each of them. His now familiar "Sorry, I have to go" every time he is stumped by a relevant question has become the silly slogan of his know-nothing campaign. The sorry excuse that others might copy his long-delayed platform, which has finally surfaced, is characteristic of his stupid staff. The trite hodgepodge of motherhood goals is not worth copying at all.

The followers of FPJ, let alone his cerebral advisers, should realize that it takes more than a handsome face and make-believe skills in overcoming tinsel villains to solve the mammoth problems of the country. What is actually needed is competence, a deep sense of humility and the indispensable trait of patriotism that Ang Panday so effectively exhibited on celluloid.

If Fernando Poe Jr. is the patriot he claims to be, he can magnify that virtue by voluntarily withdrawing from the race and avoiding the ruin of the country under his presidency. That would be for him the highest form of patriotism and worthy of his make-believe image as the nemesis of evil.

Faith-lift

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

THE STORY is told about a priest trying to explain the "Our Father" to a convert. When it came to the "give us this day our daily bread," the convert was all smiles with matching thumbs up. When it came to "forgive us our debts," all the more he smiled and gave two thumbs up. But when it came to "as we forgive our debtors," the convert shook his head and said "*Hindi pwede 'yan, lugi negosyo 'yan* (No way, that's bad for business)!"

* * *

In today's Gospel (Lk. 6, 27-38), Jesus spells out His doctrine of love which, in the eyes of many, is outright stupidity. This whole idea of loving one's enemies and turning the other cheek just doesn't make sense for those who want to get going in this world. Human nature wants to get, and to get even. Jesus tells us to give and to give even. Maybe the world is what it is today because we have never really given Jesus' formula a try. In your own life, have you ever really given Jesus' formula a try?

* * *

"God's ways are not man's ways." With much difficulty I had to bring this message across to Willy this weekend when I met him. You see, Willy is still angry and grieving. Who wouldn't be? Willy's 18-year-old daughter was stabbed and killed by his very own uncle, Willy's younger brother. It was a freak, stupid tragic thing, and what is done is done. Marianne is gone and nothing can ever bring her back. Justice can somehow appease the human desire for revenge and vengeance, but only love and forgiveness can bring peace, healing and meaning for the aggrieved and the grieving. Jesus' formula of love is not stupid after all, for it brings out the best in each and every one of us. It helps us to see beyond the limits of our human sight and understanding. It enables us to go beyond dead ends and blank walls. Love and forgiveness set us free. Are you still in a bind? That's because you do not allow God to set you free. Let go, and let God, and you are free.

* * *

"Give a man a fish, and you feed him for a day. Introduce him to the Internet, and he won't bother you for weeks." This precisely is the difference between man's ways and God's ways. Man's formula for justice is short-term. God's formula of love is long-term and long-lasting. Remember, God engineered human nature. So, he knows how to fix it, what is best for it.

* * *

"Looks like you need a faith-lift." This is God's message as we begin the season of Lent this Ash Wednesday. Lent reminds us again that our life is just lent to us by God. Lent also reminds us we should not spend our energy, attention and efforts only on the material, but on the spiritual as well. As we discipline our bodies, may we nourish our spiritual values. Many of us have well-built, well-shaped or even well-fed bodies, but have malnourished and undernourished souls. Some of us are well-equipped and well-provided for our earthly sojourn, but are so unprepared for our heavenly journey.

* * *

There can be no real change without humility. Let us go back to God in humility and acknowledge our sinfulness, and accept our weaknesses. As long as we deny, we continue to defy. A good confession will lift us up from our prisons and quagmires. When was the last time you had a good, honest-to-goodness soul-searching and confession? That is where a new life happens and begins, and where misery and pain end.

* * *

It is not enough to be devotional this Lent. Our spiritual life must overflow into a world that is in need of love, forgiveness and healing. Don't just be a pray-er, but a play-er this Lent. Look around you. The world needs all the love you can give. It is a time to be fresh, and a time to be refreshed. Here's to a refreshing observance of Lent!

* * *

I hope our politicians will really heed the message of Ash Wednesday: "Repent, and believe in the Gospel." May they never forget the Lord's warning and reminder: "Remember you are dust, and to dust you will return." Finally, may we all be reminded again of Jesus' words: "What does it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and in the end loses his soul?"

* * *

Our faith should lift us up, and lift others up. Faith is not a downer, but an upper. Lent, for that matter, is not a time to be pressed or depressed. It is a time to be fresh, and a time to be refreshed. Here's to a refreshing observance of Lent!

* * *

Someone said that the most wasted day is when one did not laugh and love. As the text message says, if there is no laughter and love, then Sunday is "sadday," Monday is "moanday," Tuesday is "tearsday," Wednesday is "wasteday," Thursday is "thirstday," Friday is "frightday," and Saturday is "shatterday." With faith, you can turn every day of the week into a day of laughter and love.

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, remind me that more than a face-lift, what I really need is a faith-lift in this life. Amen.

Two cats on the prowl

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

WHEN Rodolfo Biazon entered the Philippine Military Academy with the Class of 1960, at six feet, he was one of the tallest in his batch. In those days, six footers were a rare sight, and so he immediately caught the eye of the athletic director whose title among cadets was Master of the Sword. A muscular, well-built army captain by the name of Celedonio Javier, the director figured that with Biazon on the basketball corps squad, the PMA could improve its standing in the local basketball world.

After a while, Biazon was drafted into the team and as such enjoyed a number of privileges normally not extended to plebes (first year cadets). One such privilege was to be excused from evening mess formation since training and practice games were held in the Fort Del Pilar gym after 6 p.m. This meant he could have dinner without too much interference from upperclassmen who were basically his teammates. And with some help from friendly waiters, he could have more food on his plate as well.

For several months, he was pampered in this manner with the hope that he would develop the skills necessary to take full advantage of his height and reach. But after six months the coach finally decided that Biazon had two left feet and could not keep up with the ball while dribbling. That ended Biazon's brief stab at basketball glory. Somehow I am reminded of how former president Gerald R. Ford was described by a reporter covering the US president. According to the writer, Ford was so clumsy and uncoordinated that he had difficulty chewing gum and walking at the same time.

Some reports on Biazon say that he graduated as the "goat" of his class. The truth is he had a difficult time at the PMA, academically speaking. He was frequently on the verge of being dismissed and, in fact, he had to repeat his yearling, or sophomore year, eventually graduating with the Class of 1961. He finished close to the bottom but he was not the "goat." After graduation, he joined the Marine Corps and began a remarkable career in the military service, culminating in his appointment as the only Marine officer to serve as AFP chief of staff. In spite of his roots in Ilocandia (he was born in Batac, Ilocos Norte, hometown of Ferdinand E. Marcos), it was Cory Aquino, the widow of Ninoy who, recognizing his integrity and professionalism, elevated him to the top position in the armed forces.

Among his distinguished classmates are Gen. Alexander Aguirre who graduated No. 1 in the class and served as executive secretary under President Fidel V. Ramos, and later national security adviser to President Joseph Estrada. He now has his own law practice. Lt. Gen. Nicasio Rodriguez Jr. was the first captain; he became commanding general of the Philippine Air Force and later served as postmaster general. However, he is best known as the husband of the irrepressibly irreverent Doris Rodriguez who speaks her mind out on any subject under the sun. No one, not even the commander in chief, is spared of her acerbic tongue. The Athletic Saber was won by Marine general Eduardo Cabanlig, now on the staff of Senator Biazon.

Today, Rodolfo Biazon is one of three Peemayers elected to the Senate. The other two are Gregorio Honasan and Panfilo Lacson, both of whom belong to the Class of 1971. Recently, Honasan was quoted as saying this is not the time to stage a coup. What he really meant is: "Don't start anything until he gives the signal." In the case of Lacson, the great irony is that his best hope lies with the Supreme Court. If the high court disqualifies Fernando Poe Jr., Lacson looms as the man to beat.

It has been a long, hard climb for Biazon, the only son of a baker and a laundrywoman. At the age of 7, he lost his father, leaving him as the main breadwinner for the family. Moving to Pasay City after Liberation, he did all sorts of odd jobs, including working in the Culi-Culi red light district where he brought hot water in a basin for use in the rooms. But he remained focused on the need for education, finishing at the Arellano High School before joining the PMA.

Not many men have worn the four stars of the AFP chief of staff, but perhaps his greatest satisfaction is in the arena of political combat where his son Rufino scored an upset victory over the established Bunye clan in Muntinlupa, making them the only father-and-son team in Congress.

* * *

A few days ago, Biazon and Raul Roco were lashing out at each other on the front pages of the INQUIRER, like two lovers disillusioned over a short-lived romance. Earlier, Biazon had gone on leave from the LDP and, on the urging of Reporma head Renato de Villa, ended up on the same platform as Roco during the proclamation rites of the Alyansa ng Pag-Asa. A week later, Biazon again appeared on stage but this time with Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and other Lakas (K-4) senatorial candidates. According to Roco, Biazon had 30 million reasons for his change of heart. That was when the s—t started to fly, with Biazon calling Roco a liar.

For Biazon—in politics as in combat, check out the terrain carefully before launching any attacks.

For Roco—politics is still the art of addition. You've got to nurture new alliances and relationships instead of acting like God's gift to mankind.

For both—in politics as in war, there are no permanent friends, only permanent interests.

Talking of sex

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

I DIDN'T expect to be talking of the same things before two widely disparate audiences. One audience was composed of college freshmen and sophomores from Feati University, together with some faculty members, including a few deans, who took active part in the open forum. The other was a group of media people from Camarines Sur and Albay, all belonging to a network of reproductive health advocates in the media, meeting in Baguio for a training workshop sponsored by the Philippine Legislators' Committee on Population and Development (PLCPD).

One group was made up predominantly of young people in their late teens, the other was composed of journalists, many of them married, all presumably sexually knowledgeable, if not experienced. But both seemed in need of even seemingly basic information on sexuality and reproductive health, and were as unabashed in their willingness to share their experiences as they were with their curiosity.

It's a strange role I've found myself playing lately: a self-assigned "expert" on sexual matters when I can barely bring myself to talk about sex with my own children. But the little that I do know—as a married woman, a feminist, a researcher, advocate and student on reproductive health concerns, and as a journalist—others seem to find enlightening, if not novel. Just goes to show, I guess, that it's never too late to find a new vocation in life.

All I can say is that it feels strange to find myself attempting to stand in my friend Margie Holmes' outsize shoes. Though truth to tell, much of what I know about sexuality, especially the studies on the differences between men's and women's sexuality, I've known from listening to Margie and reading her books.

By way of digression, what does it say about Philippine culture—I wonder—that, according to a friend, National Bookstore's biggest local sellers are Margie's books and the book on Our Lady of Lipa? That we are a schizophrenic people, simultaneously obsessed with sex and spirituality? But are the two necessarily polar opposites?

* * *

THE TALK at Feati was the final segment of a campus tour organized by Kalakasan called "Usapang R," for "rights, respect and responsibility."

My frequent partner in this campus tour has been Maj. Ildebrandi Usana, head of the PNP's community relations unit, who embodies the "new" PNP, or what we hope it is: gender-aware, committed to working against all forms of violence against women and children, and conscious of the social roots of most crimes.

While Usana focuses on violence against women, and on how young people can best protect themselves, I find myself too often straying into the territory of sexuality, since part of the "women's point of view" is, of course, the need for responsible sexual behavior. As well, I find that young people are hungry for information, delivered dispassionately in a non-judgmental manner, on matters of sex. And since a young person's most basic right when it comes to reproductive rights is to be given factual information, I am more than happy to oblige.

* * *

THE QUESTIONS raised in Feati, ranging from sexual exploitation to masturbation, from virginity to foreplay, fell within the normal parameters of an "Usapang R" session. But it was the interventions of faculty members that were the most enlightening—and entertaining.

One faculty member declared that orgasms were a thing of the past for her, being a widow. ("And masturbation is not for me," she said, "I find it unsanitary!") But she wanted to know if sexual pleasure was still possible for men and women her age. Certainly it was, I said, or at least I hoped it was, and studies show that, given proper preparation, there was no reason a senior couple could not continue pleasuring each other.

But it was the dean of Student Affairs who put a most humorous spin on the afternoon's events. "I never expected this session to become all about sex," she noted, but added that she had learned much more than she expected from it. In her time, she said, one never heard clinical terms about men's and women's genitals bandied about, since these were known only as "Gorio" and "Sebya," as in, "have you washed Sebya lately?" The hall erupted into delighted laughter.

* * *

JUST as raucous—and even raunchier—was the session with the Bicolano journalists. It was the first day of the Panagbengga, the Baguio Flower Festival, and sight-seeing was on most everybody's mind. But when sex entered the discussion, everyone paid attention.

My presentation was on media and reproductive health, so I don't know how the open forum turned into a free-for-all on sex. The first interrogator prefaced her question with a reference to a "safe and satisfying sex life" contained in the definition of reproductive health, then asking if there was a connection between domestic violence and a wife's failure to "please" her husband.

What ensued was a most lively discussion that ranged from the differences between men's and women's sex drives, foreplay and orgasms, the need for better communication between spouses, and how natural family planning works. Married women traded barbs and jibes with single men, single women urged the married men to speak up, and a most respectable-looking poet-journalist, whom everyone called "Mommy" told a quite graphic tale about how she initiates sex with her husband!

It was a most stimulating morning, and proved, to my mind, how even such a private, intimate matter as one's sex life can be discussed openly and humorously, without malice or embarrassment as long as one approaches the topic with an open mind and honest heart.

The lost hope of a strong republic

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo made a bid to become a modern executive by making the formation of a "strong republic" the key goal of her administration. But in the last three years, she has probably done more to weaken our Republic than any president before her except Marcos. Her beliefs may be republican, but her recent actions have been brazenly monarchical.

At the expense of public institutions, she has tried to magnify her personal power. Her recent appointments of political allies with dubious qualifications to sensitive government positions have greatly compromised the credibility of these offices. These appointees are widely expected to do her personal bidding rather than discharge their duties honorably as public officials.

She has treated the beneficiaries of government programs like feudal subjects dependent on the personal benevolence of the sovereign rather than as citizens with formal rights.

"I just want to remind you," she told the soldiers of the republic at the start of the electoral campaign, "that I was the one who raised your pay." She repeats the same "you-owe-me" message in almost every urban poor community she visits. Lately she has been distributing "land titles" to families of informal settlers. These are actually occupancy certificates for lands identified as socialized housing sites. At the Barangay Batasan Hills in Quezon City the other day, she told the crowd after the awarding ceremony: "But the actual identification of the land that you will buy and your first payment—that will be the next installment. But now we can say you are no longer squatters in your own land."

She has also claimed as a personal act the laying down of water pipes connecting these communities to regular water service. As with the land titles, the project comes in installments and its completion is conditional. The INQUIRER reported her as saying: "And while we are waiting for those pipes to be laid down and strong water pressure to be enjoyed 24 hours a day, I have asked my co-workers to provide for the meantime free clean water through the trucks that are now here."

But she knows that unlike the monarchy, her term is not indefinite. The good fortune of her subjects is conditional upon her remaining as president. "So for all of you, this is my down payment—housing, clean water and clean government. But I need a new mandate from you so that our proclamation will be translated to land titles and these water trucks translated to permanent pipes and I will give you clean government as well." This is not good governance; this is blackmail.

In a modern state, the president of the country does not possess authority in her own right. Her powers come from the office. The resources she gives away do not personally belong to her. The citizens do not receive the benefits that come their way as private favors but as entitlements under a system of law defining the relationship between public authorities and citizens. In our system of government, we have a term for the private appropriation of the powers inherent in a public office: corruption.

That is why there ought to be a law prohibiting billboards that proclaim public programs and projects as the personal achievements of public officials. This practice is not only dishonest; it is also a regression to a form of patrimonial governance that allows the personal exploitation of the means of administration. Most important of all, this political habit infantilizes our people by treating the fulfillment of their basic needs as conditional on the personal benevolence of elected officials.

Of the candidates seeking the presidency in the coming elections, one would have expected Ms Macapagal to be the most single-minded in observing the practices of modern administration. She is after all not only the accidental trustee of the Edsa II movement for good governance, but she has also made the creation of a strong republic the centerpiece of her presidency.

A strong republic is a political order that rests on strong institutions rather than on charismatic or benevolent leaders. It draws its life from the participation and submission to authority of mature citizens rather than from any ability to buy or coerce the loyalty of powerless subjects. It is a system of rational administration based on legal authority. The applicable theory on this subject was laid down almost a hundred years ago by the German sociologist, Max Weber.

This is what Weber said: "In legal authority, submission does not rest upon the belief and devotion to charismatically gifted persons, like prophets and heroes, or upon sacred tradition, or upon piety toward a personal lord and master who is defined by an ordered tradition.... Rather, submission under legal authority is based upon an impersonal bond to the generally defined and functional 'duty of office'." Modern governance, in short, is rule of law and not rule of the patron.

By turning to the archaic ways of traditional politics in her bid to retain the presidency, GMA has moved to a political arena in which she holds no advantage. Here she is no match against FPJ, who is running on pure charisma. Lacking in charisma, she has gone on a reckless populist mode in order to win votes. In the process, she is losing the chance to be truly "the last and best hope" for our times—a modern leader who built institutions.

* * *

Comments to randolf@pacific.net.ph

Can FPJ translate reel into real?

COMMENTARY

Joel Rocamora

FERNANDO Poe Jr. will win if people believe he will win. FPJ's popularity is the main asset of the Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino. *Sumama na kayo. Siguradong panalo na ang manok namin.* This is based on nothing more than the assumption that FPJ's movie popularity is automatically translatable into votes. But there is no evidence that this is true because FPJ has never run for anything. There is reason to doubt that FPJ's particular cinema personality is in fact suitable for electoral translation the way Erap's was. The polls say that at least some translation from cinema into ballot is happening. The question is whether this will be enough to make up for FPJ's disadvantages in machinery.

Cultural politics

Because of the way Filipino movies are made, the more popular actors get to shape their roles according to how they see themselves. Reel colonizes real. Joseph Estrada becomes Erap, FPJ, "Da King." Erap is the upperclassman/boy who enjoys the company of *kanto* boys who love to drink, gamble, fool around with women. When Erap and his *barkada* see that oppression is too much, they say "*Tama na, sobra na*" and they fight. Erap fights together with his lower class friends. He becomes not just their leader. He is their intermediary, a bridge across the class divide.

People equate FPJ and Erap. If Erap won elections because of his movie popularity, FPJ will also win. But FPJ's movie persona is radically different from that of Erap. Erap is quintessentially "human"; flawed but willing to admit, even boast about his flaws. So it is easy for his fans to identify with him. The FPJ of his movies is the opposite. The Aguila, the Panday is "supra-human." He is a demigod, an archetype. He appears from out of nowhere, returns just as suddenly to God knows where. When he fights, he fights alone. People watch, but from hastily closed windows. I cannot imagine Erap agreeing to become a "savior." FPJ was reportedly persuaded to run for president by politicians because they convinced him that he is the only one who can "save" the country.

FPJ's movie popularity apparently can be converted to votes if the surveys are to be believed. The question is whether the demigod FPJ image can stand the rough and tumble of campaign politics. The relationship between an actor and his fans happens in the darkness of a movie theater. A presidential candidate will be examined tooth and nail. Whether FPJ likes it or not, his personal life and habits will be trotted out for all to see. There is no such thing as a private, shy presidential candidate.

It appears that FPJ understands this problem. That's why he has so far chosen not to say very much. Demigods do not have platforms. They thunder down from heaven with tablets of stone. The platform issue can probably be papered over by his advisers once they are identified. Besides, people do not pay attention to platforms in elections for the simple reason that voters know platforms are almost never followed. But if FPJ is made to appear simply incompetent, if he cannot do more than read prepared speeches, more and more people might turn away.

What could be more damaging are issues which show the *santo's* feet of clay. FPJ movies have no sex. The non-issue of FPJ's out-of-wedlock son—and reportedly two other daughters—might be more damaging than his not knowing how the peso loses its value. Indian gods had lots of it, but can demigods in our Christian tradition have sex? Erap was not vulnerable to this kind of attack because he would just laugh them off. If FPJ gets obviously impatient, this will work against him.

Machinery is real

Even if we grant that cinema popularity is translatable into votes, machinery is needed to do the translating. The KNP is a ragtag coalition of three parties, two of them small (PDP, PMP), the third, the LDP, divided between FPJ and Lacson. The three parties in the KNP have reportedly not quite meshed yet. Organization can be built if you have the money. But reliable reports indicate that the KNP has not yet attracted the kind of money needed for a presidential campaign. Part of the reason is that big business is afraid of an FPJ presidency. Another is the possibility that FPJ might get disqualified on the citizenship issue.

FPJ's biggest disadvantage in building local machinery, which of necessity must include a large number of elected and appointed local officials, is that he is running against an incumbent president. Dependent on the central government for timely releases of internal revenue allotments, pork barrel and other line agencies project funds, local executives have flocked to the GMA camp. Appointive officials will also be under pressure to support the President. Because there are too many people in the GMA camp, many competing for the same positions, some of these people will go to the FPJ camp. But only if FPJ can provide campaign resources.

If popularity is FPJ's biggest asset, his gaping vulnerability is the company he keeps. The KNP's Senate slate says it all. It is made up of recycled Marcos cronies from Enrile, to Maceda, to Tatad, plus a sprinkling of Erap acolytes such as Digs Dilangalen. An attempt to distance FPJ from Erap backfired when FPJ ended up getting Jinggoy Estrada on his Senate slate after all. Even Jamby Madrigal and Boots Anson Roa have Marcos and Erap in their past.

There is yet another aspect to a possible FPJ victory that people are worried about. When it was already clear that Erap would win in 1998, business was willing to factor him into their business plans. This time the markets are already indicating that an FPJ victory will result in a severe economic downturn. Media, the academe, and church groups will subject a new FPJ administration to immediate criticism. This will create conditions that will tempt groups who are just waiting for an excuse to seize power through extra constitutional means. How will a president who thinks of himself as a "savior" react? Saviors make poor democrats. They are easily tempted by authoritarian solutions.

Joel Rocamora is the executive director of the Institute for Popular Democracy.

THEY SAID

Scapegoats

"Politicians have lost a lot of face and they are looking for a scapegoat."

—Philip Round, a bird expert in Bangkok who doubts that migratory birds are to blame for the spread of the bird flu

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TALK of the TOWN

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Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

ELECTION 2004

Lacson: I'll pursue reforms without fear

MEMBERS of a youth group spray-painted red question marks on the posters of presidential candidates on Feb.18, eight days into the election campaign for candidates for national office.

"Where is the platform of concrete solutions to the problems of the masses?" asked the Samahang Demokratiko ng Kabataan. The SDK noted that all that the presidential candidates had said so far were motherhood statements.

Like members of the youth group, most of the voters have yet to know the platform of government of the candidates.

Blame it on the campaign strategy of the candidates. To cover as many villages, towns and cities as possible, candidates hardly expound on their programs. They usually tell anecdotes, crack jokes, shake hands, and, for some, sing and dance.

TV ads of the candidates are not of much help either. Because the ads run for just several seconds, the candidates can not give their stand on a host of issues that affect the lives of the people.

To help the public learn about the platform of government of the presidential candidates, we are running their stand on economic, political and social issues.

We are featuring today Sen. Panfilo Lacson's stand on issues. We featured Bro. Eddie Villanueva three days ago. The others will follow.

My platform is doable and time-bound

By Panfilo Lacson
Presidential candidate of a faction of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino

When I was the head of the Philippine National Police, I proved that meaningful reforms could take place if a no-nonsense leader governed an institution. Guided by the principle that "what is right must be kept right and what is wrong must be set right," I succeeded in realizing reforms in my first two months as the PNP chief.

I will hold on to this principle, if and when I get elected as president. Within 360 days, our people shall see a Philippines that is at pace with countries like Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand.

My platform of government is detailed, time-bound and doable. My track record as a police officer, up to the time that I became PNP chief, is proof that I can deliver reforms without fear and compromise.

These are my strengths that give me confidence that our people will put my name on the ballot on May 10 and help me defeat the evils of K-4, which are *kahirapan* (poverty), *katiwalian* (corruption), *kurakot* (graft) and *krimen* (crime).

Lift the economy

Unemployment and the exodus of brilliant Filipinos to foreign countries are due to capital flight, which is a result of corruption and the breakdown of peace and order.

This is the reason my platform of government is hinged on stopping corruption and lawlessness. There can be no economic progress if the government fails to protect investors from these two evils that have turned our country into one of the poorest in the region. God willing, I intend to address these problems with these priorities:

1. Restore justice, law and order. Without justice and law and order, the most brilliant economic plans will get us nowhere.

2. Creatively match revenues and expenditures. Government bureaucracy is bloated while revenues are anemic. If only tax collectors will remit to the treasury what they habitually pocket, even if they pocket what they normally remit, we would have already solved our budget deficit problem. We must make substantial progress toward balancing the budget, not in six years, but within two years of the new administration.

3. Stop corruption. At least 20 percent of what is left after servicing the debt and paying for personnel services is lost to corruption. There will be no sacred cows in our drive to eliminate corruption.

4. Increase national wealth through improved productivity and generation of jobs. Wealth creation starts with small and medium enterprises and individuals like our lawyers, doctors and engineers. We will give incentives to entrepreneurs and support SME's. Small businesses create most of the new jobs in the country.

5. Upgrade education. A deliberate change of the educational system has to be made to ensure that our graduates are competitive with their counterparts abroad.

6. Institute investor-friendly and predictable and consistent economic policies.

7. Strengthen the judicial system.

8. Pursue a national health policy that will make affordable quality health care a right, not a privilege.

Globalization

We cannot avoid globalization. But we should see to it that safety nets are in place to protect our industries, which cannot yet compete internationally. For instance, the new law on tariffs authored by then Sen. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has placed us in a disadvantageous position because the Philippines now is zero-tariff. This should be reviewed to protect our country's interest.

Corruption, pork barrel

On Day 1, all Cabinet members and heads of sensitive government agencies and their families will be asked to sign a waiver exempting them from the coverage of the Bank Secrecy Law should a complaint for corruption be lodged against them. I shall be the first to sign such a waiver.

Within 100 days, my administration will come up with a mechanism to tap the private sector and/or community to provide oversight and inspection functions of public works projects, to include technical inspection to determine if proper specifications were complied with. (Before I gave up my pork barrel, I filed criminal and administrative complaints against several public works officials, local executives and contractors who misused my pork allocation.)

From Day 1, my administration shall charge and prosecute grafters without fear or favor and get the guilty to jail.

I want my administration to be remembered for sending the most number of crooks in government to jail.

Power rates

My administration shall immediately review all contracts entered into by the government with independent power producers. Renegotiation of contracts will be pursued if warranted. It is also worth looking into proposals from private groups to allow them to have their own power generating systems as this would be cheaper and make them more competitive.

Agrarian reform

The agrarian reform program, started by the Aquino administration, was a failure because of corruption. Many agricultural lands have been converted into industrial lands in collusion with agrarian officers. We shall stem corruption within the Department of Agrarian Reform and expedite the distribution of land to our poor farmers.

Environment

My government will implement all national and international environmental laws. Our national parks will be expanded and we will follow the resolve of the government of Thailand in restoring its rivers. Illegal loggers and miners shall be swiftly arrested and prosecuted. Smoke belching vehicles shall be taken out of the streets and factories that do not comply with environmental safety standards shall be shut down. I'm also committed to institutionalize the waste segregation scheme. This program will be strictly observed down to the barangay level.

Charter change

Some provisions of the Constitution can no longer respond to the challenges of the times. But I believe that a shift to a parliamentary form of government from the presidential form is not timely. We have yet to politically mature to ensure that a parliamentary system of government can truly work for the best interest of our people. If ever the Constitution is amended, only economic provisions, particularly those that impose unreasonable restrictions on foreign ownership of corporations will have to be changed.

ILLUSTRATION BY GILBERT DAROY

Erap pardon

The executive branch will restrain itself from intervening in the ongoing trial of former President Joseph Estrada. We shall ensure, however, that he will be accorded a fair and just trial. If the courts of law convict Mr. Estrada guilty based on the preponderance of evidence, then pardon is impossible. But if the courts convict the former president based clearly on political persecution and not on solid evidence, only then will pardon be considered.

People power

My government will uphold the right of our people to assemble and redress their grievances. However, I will not sit down and watch "mob rule" that are usually manipulated by vested interests to take over and change the policies and principles of my administration.

Crime, death penalty

From Day 1, the entire criminal justice system shall be harnessed against drug syndicates, kidnap-for-ransom gangs and other criminals. My administration will target 180 days to dismantle, neutralize and bring these criminals to justice.

I shall lift the moratorium on the death penalty for those convicted for heinous crimes, particularly, kidnapping and drug trafficking.

Within 90 days, the country's law enforcement agencies will undertake massive reforms to transform themselves into efficient, corrupt-free and professional organizations. Rogue cops will be dismissed and will be charged in the courts.

I will augment the police force with new and better-trained recruits to be able to put more police officers on the streets. This should be noticeable in 180 days so that parents can tell their children, "If it's late at night and you are in trouble, look for a policeman for help."

Insurgency

My government will create an independent panel which will conduct peace negotiations with the New People's Army and Moro Islamic Liberation Front. But the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity should not be compromised. This way, politics shall be isolated from the peace talks. The focus should be on economic development.

Marcos ill-gotten wealth

All ill-gotten wealth, not only from the Marcoses, should be returned to the Filipino people. My government will ensure that the rule of law is observed regardless of whether one is a Marcos or a Jose Pidal. The bulk of the Marcos wealth should finance economic development, particularly agriculture.

Foreign policy

The Philippines will never isolate itself from the community of nations. Diplomatic ties with our allies shall be strengthened. We will also broaden and strengthen our diplomatic and economic ties with China while maintaining our economic interaction with Taiwan.

Supreme Court

My administration will pursue legislation that set the parameters for the Supreme Court in intervening in economic issues, particularly those involving government transactions with the private sector. This will provide certainty for investors who plan to enter into capital-intensive projects with the government.

Jueteng

For as long as *jueteng* is illegal, we will stop it and other illegal numbers game from Day 1 of my administration. I will order the immediate arrest and prosecution of gambling lords instead of just running after their *kabos* and other underlings. A "no-take" policy shall be implemented.

Health, population

My administration is dedicated to making quality health care accessible to and affordable for the average Filipino family.

My administration will expand the coverage of the National Insurance Law, targeting 50 percent coverage by the end of 2007, and a minimum of 90 percent by 2010. To be implemented is a revised structure of health insurance payments that reflects the social insurance principles of social solidarity, risk sharing and genuine equity.

Within 90 days, I shall earmark P6 billion from the Health Insurance Reserve Fund as a revolving fund for three pro-poor health programs.

Faced with the grim prospects of a population explosion of 100 million Filipinos by 2010, my administration is determined to embark on a population management program through the procurement and distribution of contraceptives such as condoms and birth control pills. My administration will also campaign for a two-children scheme for newlyweds to help curb our growing population.

Abortion

We will not allow abortion to be legalized unless this is done to save a mother's life. My government will not tolerate abortionists. We will arrest and prosecute them.

Divorce

Even without formal divorce, civil and Church annulment, which is basically divorce, is fast becoming popular among couples, who can no longer live together as husband and wife.

While I believe in the sanctity of marriage, I think that there are couples who got married for the wrong reasons. In the Philippines, there have been cases of domestic violence, which could have been settled through divorce.

Cases of separation are countless and since these are not sanctioned by the State, there is no established system to ensure that the children will get continued support from their absent parents. This issue, however, should be left to Congress. But in case divorce becomes a reality in the country, the State should ensure that all means to save a marriage are exhausted.

Housing

We have a serious squatter problem for two main reasons. First, the influx of people in urban centers for lack of livelihood in the countryside. We need to strengthen the financial viability of rural areas through agricultural modernization, accessible road system and educational facilities. We should also promote entrepreneurship and other employment opportunities.

Second, the government, then and now, has turned the housing program into a multi-billion enterprise. If we are to solve the housing shortage, the government should not expect a return on investment from whatever it spent for building houses for the poor.

I have seen a lot of empty housing units. Why can't the government allot these empty housing units for homeless families through a "pay-when-able" scheme? Along with this scheme is a job-training and job placement program, which will ensure that in no time, they can have sufficient income to pay for their loans.

Education

The principal objective of my education program is to provide every public school with an improved curriculum and resources that will allow teachers to develop their skills.

English will be the medium of instruction. Proficiency in the universally adopted language will be emphasized to heighten the competitive advantage of our graduates. Computer literacy will be prioritized.

By 2007, 50 percent of public schools will be equipped with enough computers to make the students computer literate. By 2010, we shall target 100 percent.

The ratio of books to students is an unacceptable 1: 5. In 360 days, we will bring it down to 1:3. After another 360 days, we will bring it to 1:1.

Within 180 days, the government-owned television station will be devoted solely to education and information, never a propaganda tool for the incumbent and against its political enemy.

Prostitution

Prostitution is indicative of a country's poverty. The more prostitutes a country has, the poorer it is. I believe prostitution will "wither away" if our economy becomes developed and jobs are created for the benefit of our poor. Prostitution should never be legalized because this will be an admission that the government can not do anything to improve the economy.

Gay rights

Gays are already proven to be useful and productive members of society and should be treated with dignity and respect like anyone else. Same sex marriages, however, need further study as to its moral, social and cultural impact.

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A COMMUNIST guerrilla hanging in the balance like the fate of his group's peace talks with the government. PDI FILE PHOTO

Rain drenches flower fest; critics hit Baguio officials

By the PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—For the first time since 1997, participants and spectators of the Baguio Flower Festival's opening parade shivered as strong rains poured here on Saturday afternoon as the parade was starting.

Despite the rains and complaints from some residents, organizers decided to continue with the street dancing competition, a main highlight of the opening parade where elementary and high school students in colorful flower-inspired costumes marched through the city's business district.

Most of the participants tried to smile despite their fading make-up and tattered costumes made of crepe paper and cardboard. Boys in G-strings were shivering while beating their gongs amid the rains and a 14.3-degree Celsius temperature.

But the enthusiasm of the participants was not dampened by the more than two hours of continuous rainfall as they gamely danced to the tune of the popular songs "Otso-otso" and "Bulaklak."

When the audience shouted, "*Kawawa naman kayo* (Poor you)!" at the members of school bands, a drenched trainor said: "*Wala tayong magagawa. Tuloy pa rin* (We can't do anything. We should get on with it)."

But guests, many of them from Metro Manila and as far as Quezon, cheered the participants who continued to perform amid the rains.

Some parents of the participants said that they could not do anything about the situation.

"The show must go on," said Esperanza Eilinger, a mother of one of the participants from the Loakan Elementary School.

"I was worried, but I was also (torn between) cheering my children onward, and my urge to pull them out of the rains. I felt proud for them. They were very interested in doing good this year because they always lost," a father told the INQUIRER. He had his daughters in tow, both of them shivering in their costumes.

The girls said it was their choice to push ahead with the parade.

Army Maj. Nortel Colarina, who was stationed at a makeshift first aid station at the Athletic Bowl here, said at least 34 children complained of chills.

Baguio City Rep. Mauricio Domogan said city officials are prepared to give any form of medical assistance to children who would get sick due to their participation in the parade.

The city will release a supplementary Panagbenga budget to purchase medicine and finance possible hospitalization, the INQUIRER was told.

But Domogan said it was the children who insisted that they continue with the parade.

"This was the first time that it rained during the Panagbenga. If something like this happens, I would suggest that we move the parade in the morning. But I really hope that these children would not get sick," Domogan told the INQUIRER. *Gobleth Moulic, Frank Cimatu, Vincent Cabreza, Desiree Caluza, Frances Marie Espares, Ciara Mabalot and Lea Rodriguez, PDI Northern Luzon*

Ermita opposes removing NPA, CPP from terror list

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Defense Secretary Eduardo Ermita on Thursday said he was against proposals to take the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and its armed wing, the New People's Army (NPA), away from the list of foreign terrorist groups.

"We are not agreeable to de-listing them because they continue with their terror attacks," Ermita said.

He said the communist groups "should first sit down with the government and sign an agreement."

"If they sign (a peace agreement), then we will help them in the de-listing," he added.

"But as of the moment, we are not going to lift a finger to de-list them," Ermita said.

He said the government has been fighting the insurgents for over 35 years and in between armed confrontations, efforts were made to establish peace with the group.

But, Ermita added, nothing fruitful has been achieved with the communist rebels.

"We did not ask to have them listed, and this matter of having them listed are actions of sovereign states like the United States," he said. *Julie Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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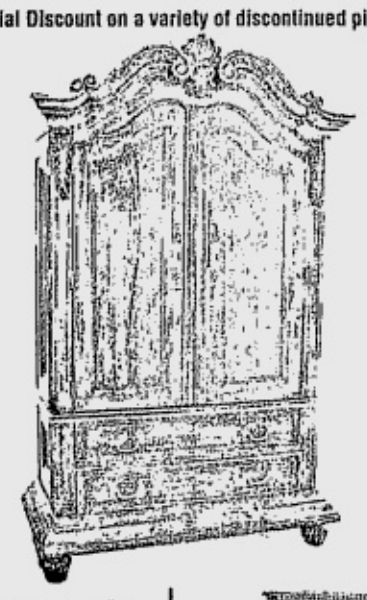

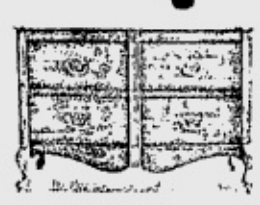

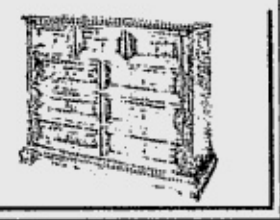

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- Parent's Certificate of Employment

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For more details, please visit the GSIS Main Office or your nearest GSIS Branch/ District Office or contact Emma, Nelda, Meljune and/or Marisa of the GSIS-HRDD Scholarship Staff at Tel. Nos. 551-1878 or 891-6161 locals 4862/4863.

Application deadline: 2 April 2004.

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DA delays importation of corn amid high prices

SCIENCE CITY OF MUÑOZ—Agriculture Secretary Luis Lorenzo Jr. assured farmers here that he would delay the importation of corn to allow local farmers to enjoy the full benefits of their bountiful harvest and a good market price for locally grown corn.

Lorenzo, during a dialogue with Northern and Central Luzon farmers and fishermen here on Wednesday, also said he would ensure that the farmers' corn harvest, expected in March and April, would be bought at no lower than P11 a kilogram.

He said it was about time that corn farmers, who suffered losses from Typhoon Harurot last year, should enjoy the benefits of their good harvest.

Corn farmers in Northern Luzon, particularly in Isabela, Cagayan and Ilocos, lost about P1 billion when Harurot destroyed their crops last year, according to the Department of Agriculture.

Lorenzo's decision was in response to appeals of farmers from the Ilocos and Cagayan Valley to allow them first to sell their harvests before the government distributes imported corn in the market.

The farmers feared that once imported corn comes in, they would not be able to sell their corn at a good price.

Corn is an essential ingredient in animal feed production.

About 2.5 million farmers are engaged in corn production but because of poor harvest, the government imports at least a million metric tons a year.

Lorenzo said the government has imported 350,000 metric tons of corn this year as a buffer stock. *Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI PHOTO

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo dances with Ibaloi women in a recent visit to La Trinidad, Benguet. Ms Macapagal went north also yesterday but not as far north as to reach Baguio City where she was expected to be the guest at the city's famous flower festival.

Gloria fails to make it to Baguio flower fest; rival seizes opportunity

By Frank Cimatu
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—The expected "floral showdown" between President Macapagal-Arroyo and presidential candidate Raul Roco in one of the most awaited festivals in the country vanished when Ms Macapagal failed to attend the opening parade of the 9th Baguio Flower Festival or Panagbenga here on Saturday.

Ms Macapagal toured Pangasinan on Saturday and did not proceed to Baguio where she was expected to attend the annual festival as its guest of honor.

But Roco made sure that he would be seen at the Panagbenga, which he described as "tailor-made" for him and his team under the Alyansa ng Pag-asa.

"We are the flower people," he told reporters in a press conference before the opening parade started amid heavy rains at 1:30 p.m. (See related story on festival on p. 17).

Roco, who was wearing a yellow floral shirt, joined the parade, alighted from his vehicle and shook hands with the drenched crowd.

Despite Ms Macapagal's absence, some senatorial candidates of the administration coalition's K4 joined the parade. They were former Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas III, lawyer Pia Cayetano, Sen. Robert Jaworski, Pampanga Gov. Manuel Lapid, former Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon and former Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago.

Roco cancelled his press luncheon at an upscale restaurant here and chose to have lunch at the *carinderia* section of the Baguio City market together with his running mate Herminio Aquino and some of their senatorial candidates.

Some vendors in the market joined Roco in eating fried *galunggong*, *sinigang*, pork barbecue and steamed rice.

"I can't blame her," Roco said of the non-appearance of Ms Macapagal. "When she learned that I went to the public market, she decided to disappear again. She is really a disappearing president," he said.

Roco said flowers are a symbol of his presidential campaign. He attended the parade on the invitation of Councilor Richard Cariño, his party's candidate for mayor.

"In the 1960s, the hippies and the Beatniks used flowers to protest against the Vietnam War. Now we are using flowers to fight against the use of money, guns and goons of the other parties," Roco said.

Mindanao hog raisers feel pinch of high corn costs

DAVAO CITY—The hog industry in Mindanao has been suffering from higher corn prices and the steady decline of the peso, an industry official said.

Teresita Pascual, president of the Davao Hog Industry Cooperative, said this year, their suffering more than doubled starting in January of this year because corn prices reached their highest in years and the peso had dropped to its lowest against the dollar.

From a low of P5.50 per kilo during the first half of 2003, corn, a main component for animal feeds, is now priced at P11 per kilo.

"Corn makes up 55-60 percent or more than half of the total feeds component for the pigs," Pascual said.

The decline of the peso also caused the prices of soybeans and chemical-based additives like amino acids and lysine to increase because these are imported.

"Soybeans make up 30-35 percent of the feeds and they are not sourced locally, (These come) from Argentina, India and very recently from the US," she said.

The price of imported soybeans, she said, increased from P12 a kilo to P22 a kilo while a bottle of amino acid is now priced at P250 from the previous P130.

"The reason behind is the depreciation of the peso," Pascual said.

Despite the problem, Pascual said hog raisers could not do anything but to continue their production because trimming down their volume would translate to more expenses. *Joel Escovilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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Attack on 2 North Cotabato villages leaves 5 dead

COTABATO CITY—Four Moro rebels and a militiaman were killed when the guerrillas attacked two far-flung villages of Midsayap, North Cotabato on Wednesday, the military here said.

Col. Rodelio Santos, chief of the Army's 40th Infantry Battalion, said about 30 heavily armed Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) guerrillas attacked the villages of Tugal and Mudsing, killing Barangay Tanod Solaiman Salem.

The attack came as Marines were sent in pursuit of members of the Pentagon kidnapping gang who were suspected of seeking shelter in areas under the control of the MILF.

Santos identified the leader of MILF forces as Commander Samal Masgal who has a standing family feud with Tugal village chair Tubog Pulalon.

"They used to be comrades in arms, now they are enemies," Santos said.

At sunset, followers of Masgal attacked the village of Mudsing but faced resistance from village guards. They retreated to Barangay Tugal where another group of guards engaged them in a two-hour gun battle.

The morning after, the guards found four dead MILF rebels in the village's ricefields.

Earlier, followers of Masgal kidnapped three relatives of Pulalon and only freed them after payment of ransom.

"There is more than just family feud that exists between them," Santos said, adding that he has sent troops from the 40th IB to prevent another attack.

Eid Kabalu, speaking for the MILF, disowned Commander Masgal. "He used to be with us but he has been dropped from our ranks," he said as he urged the government and MILF ceasefire panels to investigate the attacks.

Kabalu expressed hope the military would not dip its finger into this family feud to avoid making the "small" problem grow big.

"We should not make a mountain out of this mole," he said, adding Muslim religious leaders are hot exerting efforts to resolve the conflict peacefully.

About 200 villagers were about to leave their homes for fear of more attacks but decided to stay on after the military arrived, Santos said.

Midsayap Mayor Romeo Arania also sent a team of social welfare officers to assess the situation of residents.

Santos said Commander Masgal, now considered as a renegade rebel leader, is the subject of an Army manhunt in the Liguasan marshland.

"He has to be made responsible for the attacks," he added.

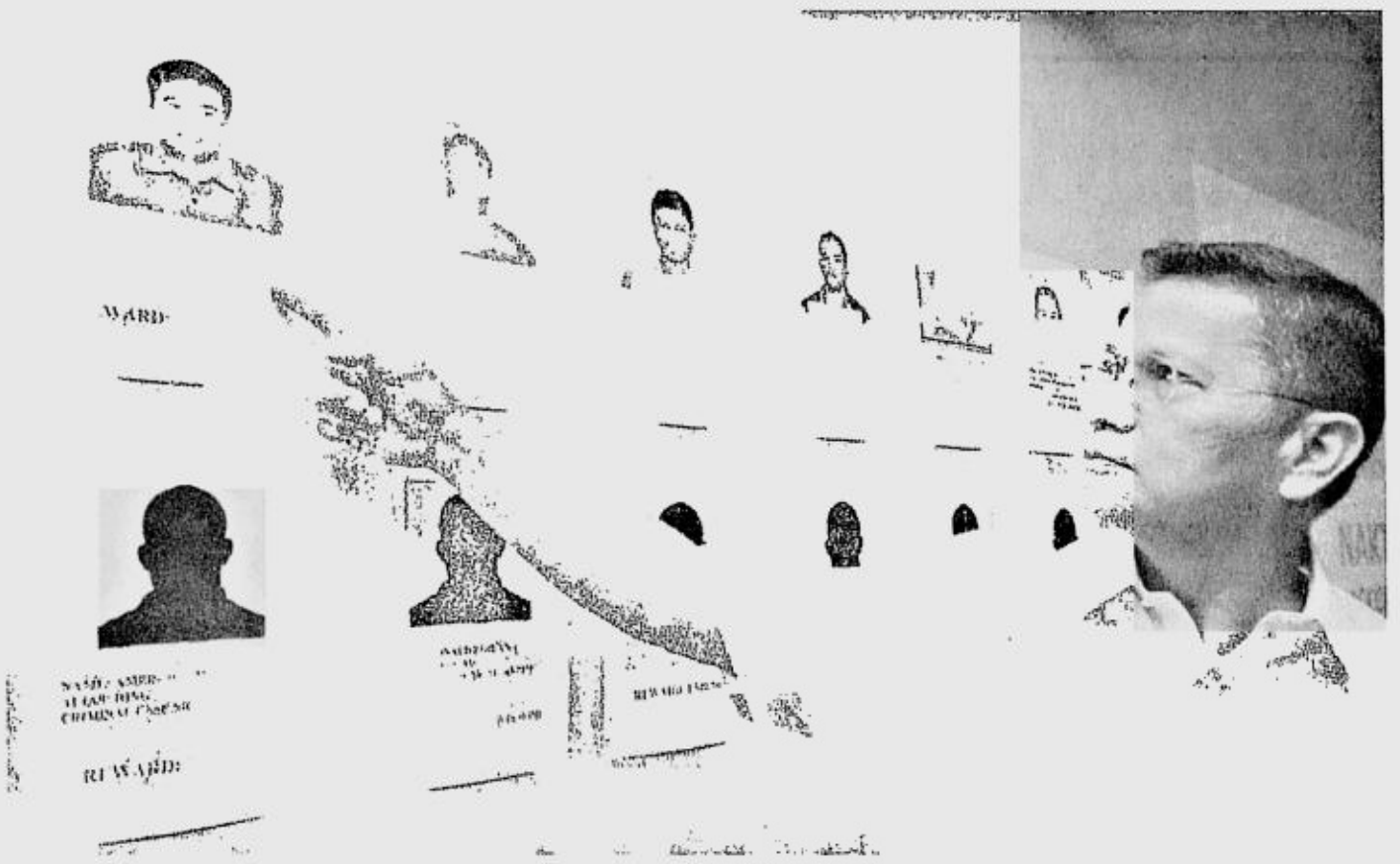
He assured commuters plying the Cotabato-Davao route that the highway is safe since the two villages are 20 kilometers away.

In nearby Carmen, North Cotabato, three militiamen were wounded when some 20 MILF guerrillas attacked an Army outpost of 38th Infantry Battalion, according to Col. Isagani Catchuela, 602nd brigade chief.

The early morning harassment also resulted in the wounding of two attackers.

Catchuela identified the leader of MILF attacker as Commander Galmac of the MILF's 106th brigade operating in the border of North Cotabato and Bukidnon.

Kabalu denied it was an MILF-initiated attack. "Our troops are religiously observing the ceasefire," Kabalu said, adding, "maybe they were provoked by militiamen." *Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



ANTI-KIDNAPPING czar Angelo Reyes points to the mugshots of members of kidnapping groups at the height of the government's anti-kidnapping campaign in December. The task force Reyes heads has its hands full with other kidnapping groups continuing to operate in Mindanao.

JOAN BONDOC/PDI PHOTO

Bishop describes stay in executions 'victory in favor of human life'

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—"It is a great victory in favor of human life."

This was the reaction Friday of Bacolod Bishop Vicente Navarra to the Supreme Court order suspending the execution of two convicted kidnappers and the reopening of their case.

"I am very happy with the SC ruling because this is what we have been praying for, thank God it was granted to us," said Navarra.

He said they would hold thanksgiving activities in the form of Masses and prayer vigils "for the happy and favorable SC resolution."

Roberto Lara of Barangay Concepcion, Talisay City, Negros Occidental, and Roderick Licayan of Surigao del Sur were meted the death penalty for their alleged involvement in the abduction of a businessman and his assistant on Aug. 10, 1998 in Manila.

The Church had initiated protest actions in Negros Occidental to seek the stay of execution and the reopening of the case after Lara's uncle Pedro Mabansag cleared him of the crime.

Mabansag, 60, and the alleged mastermind, said in an affidavit that Lara was innocent because the latter had no participation in the kidnapping.

Lara's parents Benilda and Alberto were overjoyed by the High Court decision. But they said they would continue to pray that he would eventually be declared innocent and set free.

Despite the SC decision, the Church will continue its campaign for the abolition of the death penalty.

Fr. Aniceto Buenafe, Diocese of Bacolod social action director, said the Church called on Negrenses not to vote for candidates who were for death penalty.

"The Church also encourages politicians running for the presidential post to support the issue on the abolition of death penalty, which is a devaluation of human life," Buenafe added.

"The Church is against the death penalty because it believes in the sacredness of human life and that only God has the sole authority to take it," he said.

Buenafe said he believed taking a stand on the death penalty issue was a good indicator to determine whether a politician was pro-people, pro-nation and pro-life.

30 percent of Pangasinan policemen can't hit target

LINGAYEN, Pangasinan—Policemen from this province better learn how to shoot or their firearms would be recalled and they would be issued batons.

Senior Supt. Mario Sandiego, provincial police director, said 30 percent, or one out of every three policemen in the 2,000-man Pangasinan police force, failed the marksmanship and proficiency training program undertaken by the force from July to December last year.

"They cannot hit the target—a human size target board from a 15-yard distance," Sandiego said.

However, the failing shooters will still be given another chance to prove that they can shoot their target when another round of marksmanship and proficiency training program is undertaken in March.

Sandiego said a firearm is "part and parcel of a police uniform and is a symbol of authority."

"If they cannot shoot their target and hit instead some bystanders, then they are not fit to be issued firearms," he added.

He gave as examples the two Mangaldan policemen who shot the suspects in the killing of another policeman last week.

"If they were not sharpshooters, they could have hit some bystanders instead," he noted.

Policemen who are 40 years old and above usually fail in marksmanship tests, Sandiego said. "*Parang tamad na* (They appear lazy)," he added.

But he gave credit to the younger policemen, who, he said, could shoot well. The civilian shooters who belong to shooting clubs train the policemen.

Sandiego said only about 60-70 percent of the policemen have been issued firearms by the PNP while the others use their personal guns. *Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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INQUIRER Mindanao

Editor Jun Bandayrel
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Ma: Master of the art of teaching

By Ryan D. Rosauro
Ozamiz City

DESPITE the importance Filipinos attach to acquiring a respectable degree of education, teaching remains a "missionary profession" in the country, owing to its generally low economic reward.

Old hands, newcomers and even prospective entrants to the teaching field have come to live with this fact, content in rationalizing that there is more to teaching than mere economic bottom line.

But for Felicia C. Ma, who once earned her keep selling guavas, there is fortune in pursuing a passion for pedagogy, especially mastering the art of dealing with toddlerdom. She retired from the public school system in 1998 to focus her energy on a flourishing family-owned private elementary school venture, of which she is the majority owner.

Now in her late 40s and enjoying the life of single-blessedness, she presides over the day-to-day grind of the FMC Ma School as its director.

Currently on its fifth year of operation, the school grew from a summer tutorial center Ma set up a decade ago into a formal learning institution with government recognition five years later. It caters to the children of rich families whose parents demand dependable quality instruction, or, simply put, value for their money.

From a rented room in a rented house, the tutorial center is now a full-fledged school in a two-story building within a 1,400-square-meter compound owned by Ma. It is now a major contender in the market of upscale schools.

Since the school's inception, enrollment has been constantly climbing. For school year 2003-04, the school has over 200 pupils in preschool up to Grade 6.

In a chat with this writer one afternoon, Ma said she could glean the rosy prospects during closing ceremonies to mark a just ended school year.

Almost always, parents of Grade 6 pupils who graduated ask her when she will offer high school classes because they want their children to continue receiving the kind of instruction they get from the school, and to be exposed to its very enabling learning environment.

Some parents even urge her to offer a Chinese language class, Ma said.

"Miss Ma," as she is more known in the community, targets expansion to secondary education classes about two years from now. As for the Chinese language class, she said the idea provided an exciting window to look into.

Principally, two factors are laying the strong foundation for the school's growth: a good name and a commitment to quality service.

Reputation

In the local community, the family name Ma has been associated with teaching, especially of the careers of the sisters Felicia and Cristina.

Of the two, Felicia is more popular, having hogged the limelight when she bagged the Metrobank Foundation's "Outstanding Teacher of the Philippines" Award during the annual national search in 1991.

Ma garnered the award almost two decades into a dedicated career as a high school—first in a private institution, then in the public school system.

Fresh from college, she began her teaching career at the Immaculate Conception High School in 1974 and eventually transferred to the public school system in the early 1980s. She finished a Bachelor of Secondary Education course, major in English from the Immaculate Conception College (ICC), then run by the Columban Sisters but is now part of the La Salle school system.

In 1989, Ma completed her Master of Education degree, major in Reading, at the University of the Philippines. She also earned a Diploma in Applied Linguistics in Singapore.

From an ordinary classroom teacher, she rose to become education supervisor in English of the Department of Education's Ozamiz City Division, from 1996 to 1998.

Whether as trainer or classroom instructor, Ma is a distinguished English teacher, as well as an expert in improving reading skills.

Attesting to this is a citation for "Outstanding Trainer in English" for the Secondary Education Development Program (SEDP) in 1989 and 1991. She is also a much sought-after lecturer on the vital question of improving learners' reading ability, for which she has spoken many times before teachers in Misamis Occidental.

For four years, she served as graduate school faculty member, sponsored by the Fund for Assistance to Private Education in the ICC, her alma mater. She handled a masteral course on teaching English as a second language.

STANDING proud amid a class of her own. PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

In recognition of her pedagogic achievements, the city of Ozamiz awarded her as "Outstanding Citizen in the Field of Education" in 1998.

During the same year, she got a grant from Rotary International for a three-month educational tour in the US state of South Carolina.

Service

Another attribute that seals the school's reputation with clientele is its untiring commitment to quality service as a cornerstone of good business.

Being its director, Ma acts herself, literally, as head of the school family. This makes a big difference in the way the school operates.

For one, the organization is generally flat, judging from the flow of relations and communication between and among its various stakeholders. Take a pupil who goes straight to the director's office to tell "Teacher" about his or her problem.

According to Ma, she is closer to the children than their teachers. She keeps it that way in keeping with her dogged desire to know fully well every one of them. This helps her understand better every child's learning track, which comes in handy when she gives their parents feedback and advice in relation to their children's performance in school.

Such interfaces with parents are a regular feature of the entire educational process as part of Ma's stress on really getting the parents involved in managing the learning development of their children.

As part of its commitment to provide an enabling environment for learning, the school, at times, performs service beyond the requirements of official instruction.

In managing instruction along its desired quality standard, Ma's over two decades of classroom experience provides a handy toolkit. She does the rounds every day to check on every class.

Class size is kept within the ideal 25-30 pupils per instructor in order to ensure "personalized and individualized" attention. Still, the school is conscious of the fact that learning is a social activity, Ma explained, meaning that the best way to learn is through a social process inside the classroom where pupil and teacher, and even pupils themselves, interact.

To be in step with technological trends early in life, pupils from Grade 3 up are taught the rudiments of operating a computer. But a distinguishing attribute of the school's elementary education instruction is its goal of developing each child's English proficiency. And the cornerstone of learning is an excellent reading ability.

With that, Ma is being true to her mark as an educator.

This early, this nose for quality is reaping honors for the school, such as winning in the Division Math Challenge and in the Regional Schools Press Conference, a contest for budding writers in the elementary and high school levels.

Balance is also struck between academics and play; the school's motto stresses this very clearly. The school is characterized as an institution "where academic excellence is achieved through fun and social activities."

Hard work

Ma considers the establishment of the school as her greatest achievement, crowning long years of hard work and sacrifice.

If not because of the school, Ma joked, she would not have become familiar with a checking account in a bank. "I had received a lot of checks but hadn't issued one in the past," she laughingly related.

Looking back, Ma could not imagine how she came to own a school today. "I have never dreamed of this before," she quipped. "All I wished for then was to sit in a swivel chair just like an executive."

Ma is fourth in an all-girl brood of five of a poor Chinese-Filipino family that migrated from the Visayas to Molave town in Zamboanga del Sur.

She reminisced how her family's poverty had prompted her to develop a flare for entrepreneurship early on. "During my days as an elementary school pupil, I already had the knack of turning profit from my meager *baon* by engaging in a sort of buy-and-sell operation."

Ma related that when she was in high school, she earned commissions for selling the guavas of her teacher to classmates and schoolmates. She was handed down an "exclusive dealership" of the fruits when her teacher found she was the only one who could remit the exact amount every selling day's end.

When she started her teaching career, Ma exploited moonlighting opportunities in order to supplement her income. She served as personal tutor to children of Chinese-Filipino families.

So, as a school day ended, another teaching load began. She set off at five in the afternoon and ended at nine in the evening. This was the beginning of her tutorial services.

Along the way, Ma developed good relations with the parents of the children. These ties unknowingly bore fruits later when she was short of cash as she embarked on a project of developing the present school site. She intimated that she then had only P100,000 in cash.

Most of those who supplied the construction materials were either parents of her tutorial pupils or her pupils themselves. Ma was able to amass the required inventory of construction materials, procuring them on credit, merely on the basis of trust.

Her track record and good reputation during her classroom teacher days is also reaping good returns in terms of school enrollment: many of the enrollees are sons or daughters of her students in the past.

The varied tasks relating to the school's operations serve as vehicle to constantly keep in touch with her two other sisters, Martina and Cristina, who, like her, followed the path of single-blessedness.

She related that in the past, the individual pursuit of careers made closeness among them a dear commodity. With each of them now performing school management roles, they are able to relate to one another more often than they did before. Martina, who has expertise in Finance, is the financial consultant, while Cristina, who continues to be a public school teacher, serves as academic consultant.

After all, FMC stands for Felicia, Martina and Cristina.

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COMPACT FOR PEACEFUL ELECTIONS

Conjoined RP twins hurdle riskiest of surgeries

From page A1

22-month-old Carl and Clarence Aguirre were wheeled to a recovery room to shake off their anesthesia and begin adjusting to rerouted circulation systems, said Pamela Adkins, spokeswoman for Montefiore Medical Center in the Bronx.

"We're cautiously optimistic," she said. One of the surgeons, Dr. David Staffenberg, had reported near the end of the operation that "Things are going very, very nicely," she added. No detailed comment on the results of the surgery was expected before a Saturday news conference.

Staffenberg said before the surgery that a fourth operation later this year, and possibly a fifth, would be necessary before the twins can be separated.

"This surgery is necessary for my boys to lead a normal life. It is their only chance," their mother, Arlene Aguirre, said before Friday's operation began.

The boys—and a medical team of 16—went into the operating room Friday morning.

Fused skulls

The doctors' plan was to cut into the twins' fused skulls and delicately divide most of the remaining blood vessels, including one of the two major veins, that are connected to both boys' circulation systems. The vessels were to be assigned to one twin or the other, establishing two nearly independent blood flows.

Dr. James Goodrich, chief of pediatric neurosurgery, said Clarence, who was born with a better-developed system of veins, would likely get to keep the bulk of the existing system. For Carl, the blood flow would be directed into other existing veins.

The risks included bleeding, because the veins' walls are so thin, and the swelling that can damage the boys' separate brains. Those dangers were avoided in the first two operations, in October and November, but Friday's surgery promised to be trickier.

"As we move toward the back of the head, the anatomy changes," said Staffenberg, chief of pediatric plastic surgery. "The veins get a little larger and it's a little more dense so it's really going to be a demanding technical exercise for the neurosurgeons."

Tissue expanders were inserted under the scalp during the first two operations in hopes of stretching skin for use in covering the skulls later. But they became infected each time and had to be removed, so expanders were not added in Friday's surgery.

Growing well

The twins and their mother have been in New York since September, staying at the Blythedale Children's Hospital in Valhalla between trips to Montefiore. Both hospitals and the medical team are donating their services.

The boys, underweight when they arrived, have been growing well and learning some of the motor skills they will need when they are separated. Because they are joined at the tops of their heads, they have never walked, stood or even sat up, though they have begun crawling on hands and knees.

Doctors decided last year to separate the twins in stages, rather than in a single marathon operation, to give them time to heal between surgeries and to adapt gradually to changes in their circulation systems.

Staffenberg said the strategy seemed to be working. The latest high-tech scans and models of the boys, as well as direct observation, show no sign of brain injury, he said, and meanwhile the brothers are growing bigger and stronger after each operation.

Veins that had been nearly dormant have plumped up, responding to the tying off of other veins, and Clarence's high blood pressure has improved as Carl's circulation became more independent, the doctor added.

High spirits

Staffenberg said the twins appeared to be in high spirits as they were wheeled into the operating theater.

"Both were smiling, happy, playing with their toys, giving high-fives and saying 'bye-bye' and 'hello'," Staffenberg said. "They were very interactive with their mother and the medical team."

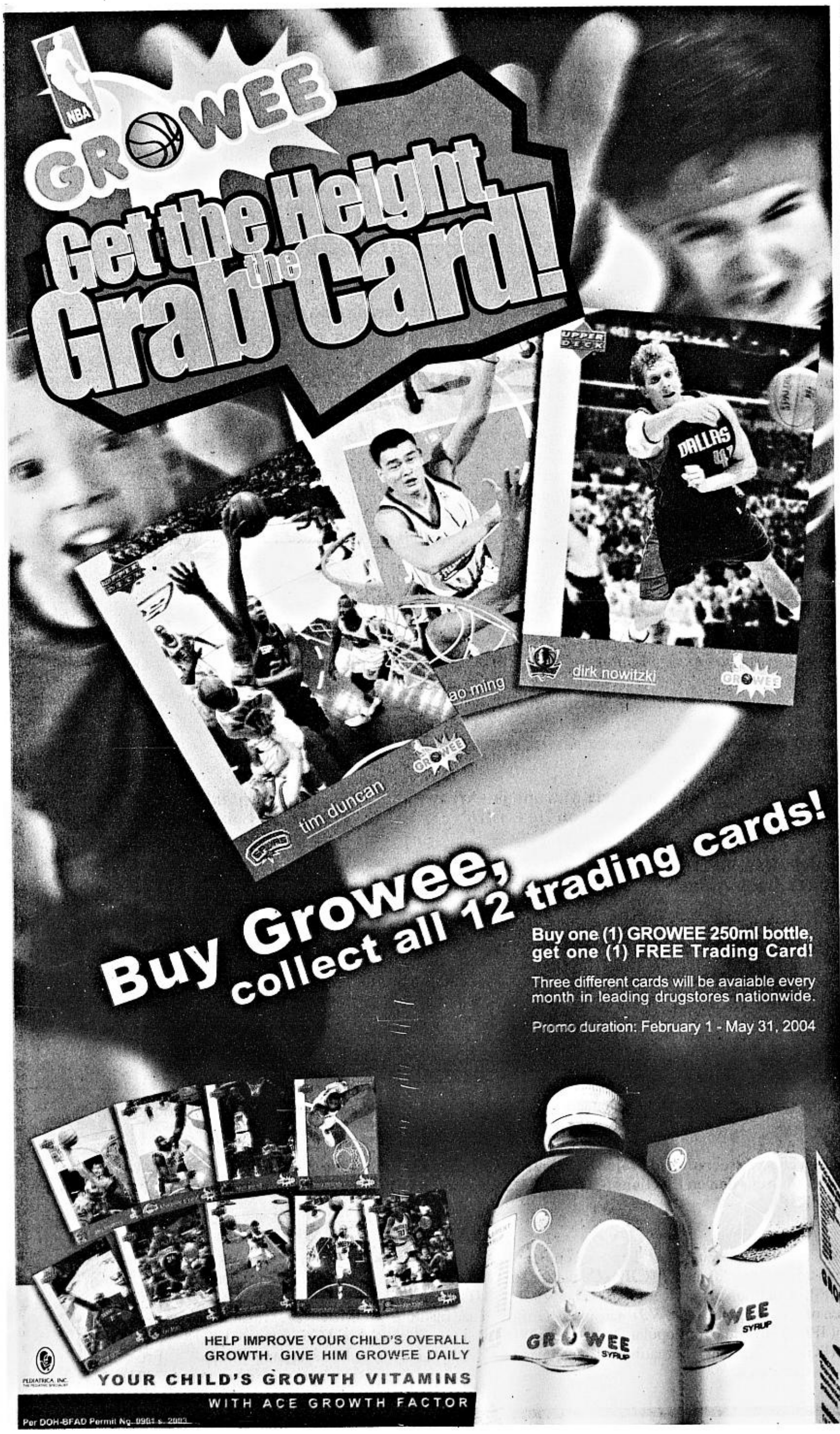
Goodrich said earlier this week that the sharing of the veins in the boys' heads had created a "lake" of blood between their brains.

"We've decided to give the lake to Clarence," Goodrich said. "What we're trying to do is reverse the flow in Carl and try to get his blood to flow into deeper veins."

Conjoined twins occur in approximately one of every 200,000 live births. Twins joined at the head are extremely rare—representing roughly one in 10 million live births.

Instead of performing one lengthy operation, the medical team at the Montefiore hospital decided to conduct the separation over the course of as many as four shorter operations.

The first surgery took place last October with a five-hour operation to place balloons underneath the boys' scalps in a process called tissue expansion. *AP and AFP*



GMA betrayed me thrice . . .

From page A1

cision several times. He did so as early as January last year and in the presence of some Cabinet members in Malacañang, he said.

Then on Oct. 4, 2003, while the President was in her home province of Pampanga, she changed her mind and offered herself to the electorate in 2004 as "the leader with the experience and vision necessary to change society, achieve economic development and eliminate poverty."

"I did not betray her," Villanueva stressed.

No 'trapos'

He said he initially suggested either Interior Secretary Jose Lina Jr. or Metropolitan Manila Development Authority chair Bayani Fernando, be Task Force Pagbabago's presidential candidate, but the group did not want traditional politicians.

After four agonizing months of prayer and fasting, Villanueva announced in November last year that he would run for president as "a duty to God and the nation."

Villanueva disclosed that the President tried to dissuade him from running. She even sent Speaker Jose de Venecia who dangled as bait his prerogative to choose the chair of the Presidential Commission on Moral Affairs. "Anyone I wanted," he said.

The commission would aim to raise morality in government. It had been an idea proposed by Villanueva to Ms Macapagal back when she was Vice President. He would also be given funding of P50 million.

"They said they will do everything to fight corruption ... They wanted to swear in immediately the (commission) chairperson (of my choosing). But we are not like that. We are not the type that would exchange our convictions for concessions," Villanueva said.

Offers turned down

Ms Macapagal's emissaries, including former President Fidel Ramos, also offered to "approve all contracts" connected with the Jesus is Lord Church Worldwide, including the use of a property in Subic Bay to put up a school for poor residents.

Villanueva turned this down as well, saying that the politics of patronage and payback was why the future of this country had been "mortgaged" to campaign contributors and political supporters.

The evangelist alleged that Malacañang may have had a hand in the difficulties he faced when he filed his candidacy. The Commission on Elections initially nixed his application and almost did not accredit his political party, the Bangon Pilipinas Movement for National Renewal.

Rally today

Villanueva's camp will hold a proclamation rally at Rizal Park this afternoon. People were asked to bring candles for a ceremonial lighting for national enlightenment and renewal.

The Christian leader, who founded the JIL which now counts some five million members here and abroad, is banking on the support of some 7.1 million registered born-again voters and the "silent majority" who have given up on traditional politics.

"Six years is too short. We have to accelerate the reformation and rehabilitation of the nation," Villanueva said.

He concluded: "I helped GMA. I staked my life for GMA, I staked my life in helping political leaders of this country... but if there is no righteous leadership... The Bible says righteousness exalts a nation but sin is a reproach to any people."

SUERTRES 9 7 7

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METRO

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Editor Abelardo S. Ulanday

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An eye for an eye, JV warns Atienza

By Luige del Puerto

THE ONCE strong alliance between San Juan Mayor Joseph Victor "JV" Ejercito and Manila Mayor Joselito Atienza may be showing cracks.

Ejercito yesterday warned that he might retaliate against what he saw was a deliberate move by Atienza to disallow rallies by the political opposition in Manila.

Tit for tat

"After what they did, I'm thinking whether or not to allow Atienza, if he brings along administration groups, to hold a rally in San Juan," Ejercito said in a phone interview.

"*Gantihan na lang ito* (It's tit for tat)," he added.

The San Juan mayor then took a snipe at the Manila chief executive, "What do you call what he's doing? *Sumisipsip lang yan sa Malacañang* (He is just trying to get into Malacañang's good graces)."

Ejercito, a son of ousted president Joseph Estrada, and Atienza, a staunch supporter of the San Juan mayor's father, have been known to be allies.

Many of the hundreds of thousands of Estrada supporters who participated in the May 1, 2001, riots came from the depressed communities of Manila like Tondo.

Everybody welcome

On Friday, Ejercito, who chairs the PMP (Partido ng Masang Pilipino) Youth-Batang Pinoy Para kay FPJ, criticized Atienza for allegedly not allowing his group to hold rallies in Manila.

Atienza denied the accusation, saying all groups—especially members of the political opposition—could hold rallies in his city as long as these follow the guidelines, like applying for a permit at least five days before the actual date of the rally.

Mayor decides

But despite his threat, Ejercito said it was the right of any group—the administration included—to be heard.

"Naturally, I have to allow them to hold a rally here. I can't hold them back because it would be against the law," he said.

"I am just hoping Atienza would do the same," he said, adding that as a mayor like Atienza, he knew that it was the local chief executive who ultimately decides on this issue, not the police.

Gov't to use 'small fry' to catch drug lords

By Tarra Quismundo

THIS TIME it will be the small fish catching the whales and the sharks in the illegal drug trade.

Secretary Jose Lina Jr. of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) disclosed yesterday that drug pushers and users caught with a small but substantial amount of drugs would be given a chance to save themselves.

Cleared

"Those who will tell us where the drugs are coming from will be cleared of the charges and be made state witnesses," Lina said.

He made the statement in front of 143 drug suspects arrested all over Metro Manila over the past week.

The drug suspects were presented to media by the National Capital Region Police Command, which is leading the anti-drug campaign in the metropolis.

Families recruited

Lina explained that tips from street-level drug pushers might lead them to busting big-time drug suppliers, warehouses and laboratories in the country.

At the same time, Lina said, the DILG would be tapping families that would act as "gatekeepers" for other families that might be vulnerable to drug abuse.

Gatekeeper families would be tasked to organize 50 other families in their communities to discuss the dangers of drug abuse and devise ways of preventing their members from becoming victims.

"The core message is: A family that prays together stays together," he said, borrowing the words of Fr. Patrick Peyton of the Family Rosary Crusade.

He pointed out that "a disunited or loose family causes children to stray."

The enlistment of small drug suspects and families is part of a continuing government effort in the war on drugs.

"Many battles may have been won, but the war is not yet over," said Lina.

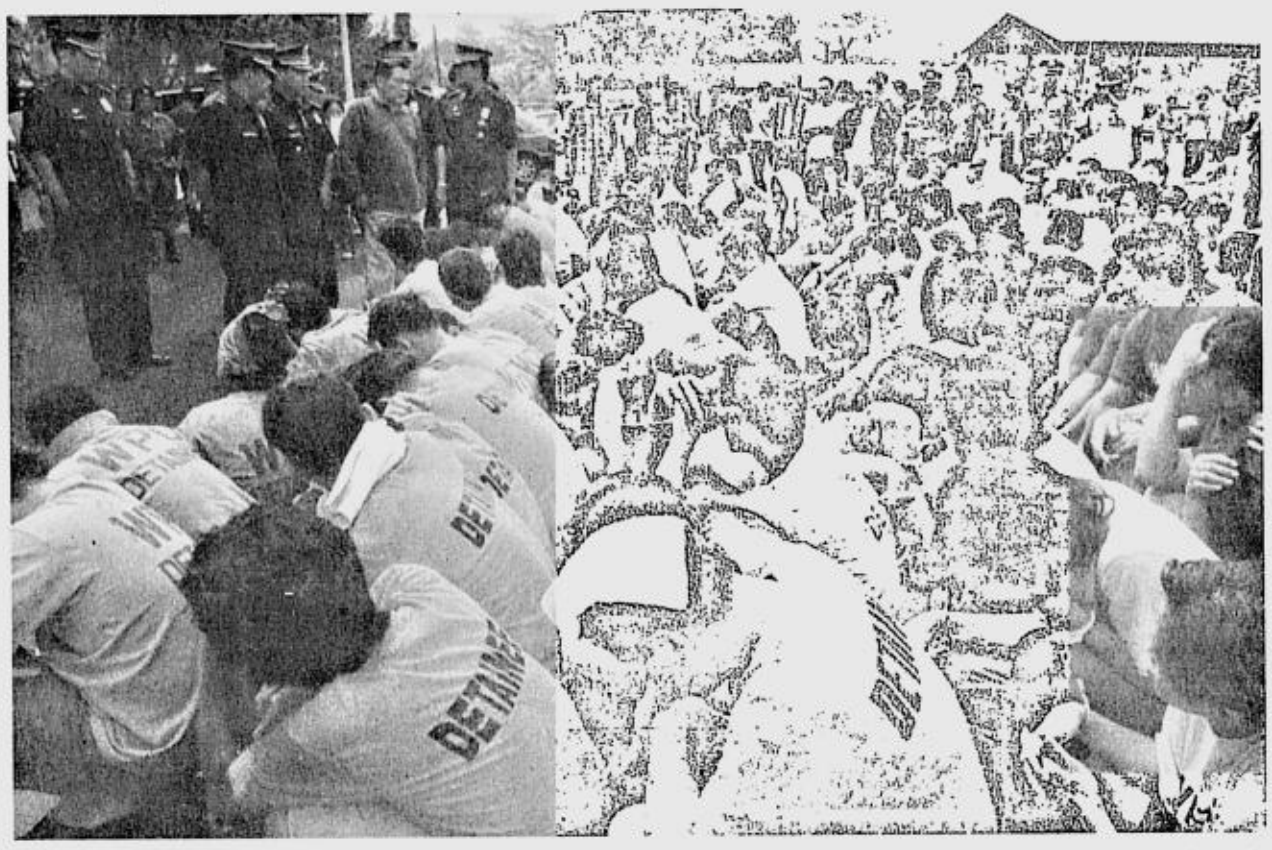
Not enough

"It is not enough that we dismantled labs and warehouses, where P13 billion worth of drugs were recovered. We will pursue the campaign in barangays because that's where the action is," said Lina.

The past one and a half months of NCRPO's barangay drug-clearing operations in Metro Manila led to the arrest of 947 drug suspects.

This number makes for a total of 8,000 arrests of drug suspects in Metro Manila since the start of the intensified anti-drug campaign on June 16, 2003.

NCRPO Director Ricardo de Leon said that the several barangay saturation drives, where drug users were either caught in the act or arrested through court-issued arrest warrants, have cleared 841 barangays in the metro region.



A TOTAL of 143 alleged drug suspects are presented to media inside Camp Tomas Karingal in Quezon City to highlight the anti-drug campaign of the Department of the Interior and Local Government dubbed 'Lakbay Droga 2004.' JOAN BONDOC

METROBRIEFS

Reward for stolen image

SEN. ROBERT Barbers yesterday offered a P250,000 reward for anyone who could provide information that would lead to the recovery of the 300-year-old Sto. Niño image stolen from the San Agustin Church. Barbers said that he personally felt bad about the theft since he was a believer of the miracles attributed to the baby Jesus. Robbers last week took the Sto. Niño image from the arms of the Our Lady of Consolation and Correa that was housed inside the historic church in Intramuros. *Dona Pazzibugan*

Shot and robbed in UP

IT HAPPENED in broad daylight on the University of the Philippines campus in Diliman, Quezon City. Jose Cruz Caballero, 72, a food dealer who had resided on St. Francis Street inside the university, was walking home with his wife at about 10:30 a.m. when the suspects struck. Two men on a motorcycle blocked the path of the couple on Laurel Street near the Ilang-Ilang Residence Hall and tried to grab the bag of Caballero. When he resisted, one of the suspects shot him. *Tarra Quismundo*

Slay suspect falls

ONE OF four men who allegedly participated in the assassination of lawyer and 2001 Buguey mayoralty candidate Franklin Tamargo and his 8-year-old daughter in Manila last year has been arrested by the Western Police District. Manuel Columna, Jr., 29, a multicab driver, was collared in Ziminila, Camalaniugan, Cagayan. He was tagged by witnesses as one of four men who approached Tamargo during the ambush in August. *Leila Salaverria*

Hollywood burns

THE FORMER Hollywood Theater, now the Amigo, in Manila was gutted by fire yesterday morning. The blaze that began at 1:54 a.m. destroyed P50,000 worth of property at the second floor of the cinema along C.M. Recto Street in Sta. Cruz. It reached the fourth alarm before being put out at 2:43 a.m. Fire investigators said the blaze began at a ventilation duct of the building but they have yet to determine its cause. No one was hurt. *Leila Salaverria*

Valenzuela market blaze

A ONE-HOUR fire destroyed P10 million in property in Valenzuela City yesterday morning. The blaze that began at 7:25 a.m. destroyed 70 stalls of meat, poultry, fruits, vegetables, grocery items and dry goods of the two-story Valenzuela Market Trading Center Vendor's Cooperative Inc., at the corner of McArthur Highway corner Don Pedro Street, in Marulas. The fire that raged until 8:30 a.m. also injured two firemen and a civilian who sought shelter beside a concrete wall which fell on them. SFO3 Roberto Suarez, assistant chief of operations of the Valenzuela BFP, FO2 Reynaldo delos Santos and 66-year-old Venancio Bandal, suffered mostly head injuries. A three-story house was also gutted *Tarra Quismundo*

Chinese shabu couple nabbed

FIVE kilos of high grade shabu worth P10 million on Friday were seized from a Chinese couple believed to be members of a transnational drug group.

Western Police District lawmen under Chief Insp. Florencio Ortilla, Insp. Roberto Pâlisoc and Supt. Araceli Hofilena of Station 6 arrested Jiang Zhongtian, 35, and Wu Yuting, 30, during an anti-drug operation in Valenzuela City.

Jiang was presented to the media yesterday but not Wu. According to Hofilena, the woman is pregnant and about to give birth.

Police said that the couple are behind the supply of illegal drugs in Binondo, Manila, Valenzuela City, Caloocan City and Bulacan province.

Ortilla, head of the district's special drug operation unit, said that his men were conducting follow-up operations in Valenzuela on Friday morning when they spotted a green sports utility vehicle that was said to belong to the suspects.

The lawmen then followed the vehicle to a Shell gasoline station on McArthur Highway in Valenzuela, where the suspects alighted from the vehicle.

One of the suspects was then spotted handing over a black garbage bag to the other suspect.

One of the lawmen then noticed a transparent sachet containing a substance believed to be shabu in the bag.

When the men got hold of the garbage bag, they found four other transparent bags said to contain shabu. The policemen then took the couple into custody. *Leila Salaverria*

Top judge slain in Binangonan

THE EXECUTIVE Judge of Binangonan, Rizal, was stabbed to death yesterday morning while tending to his fish pen near his house.

The police said Judge Paterno Tiamson of Barangay Pag-asa, Binangongan, was stabbed by a neighbor, Dario Bernardo, 55.

"The suspect wrapped an arm around him, pulled out a knife, and stabbed him in the back," said Supt. Jose Samonte Gili, town police chief.

The police learned that Tiamson had been hearing a case earlier lodged against Bernardo. However, they have yet to determine which case it was.

Tiamson and Bernardo's fish pens lie adjacent to each other, the police said.

Investigation showed that Tiamson, together with three female workers, was fixing the bamboo fence of his fish pen when Bernardo arrived at about 10:30 a.m.

Gili said Bernardo went straight to the judge, hugged him, then stabbed him repeatedly before fleeing.

A grandchild of Tiamson was kidnapped last December in Muntinlupa but was rescued by the police in Laguna. Tiamson and other family members went to Malacañang to thank President Macapagal-Arroyo as the Chief Executive presented the boy to media. *Alcuin Papa, Luige del Puerto*

Ritz, glamour in Makati jail

By Leila Salaverria

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation is currently looking into the report that Rosario "Rose" Baladjay, the pyramid scam suspect, has been receiving VIP treatment at the Makati City Jail.

According to the report which the NBI received, Baladjay threw a lavish birthday party outside her cell at the back of the city jail earlier this month and was even photographed wearing an expensive diamond necklace.

The bureau is set to question jail warden Supt. Edgar Bolcio on the alleged privileges of the pyramid scam suspect and how she was able to hold a party within the premises.

According to an NBI official, the bureau received a copy of the photograph showing the suspect with around 20 people taken at the back of the Makati City Jail.

In the photograph, which the NBI official showed to reporters, a smiling Baladjay was shown in the center, sitting in front of a table, fully made up and wearing a red sleeveless top. The rest of the people surrounding her were smiling and mostly clad in red as well.

In the photograph, which was taken during the daytime, Baladjay could also be seen wearing a sparkling necklace studded with diamonds. According to Baladjay's counselors, the necklace is worth P80 million. The NBI has yet to confirm this because the necklace is still with Baladjay.

Baladjay has been accused of running off with billions of pesos worth of investments.

Rizal goes on red alert

THE ENTIRE Rizal province has been placed under red alert following an encounter with suspected NPA guerillas in Antipolo City this week, the police said.

But Senior Supt. Leocadio Santiago, Rizal police chief, said the measure is just a precaution.

"This is merely a preventive measure," Santiago said in a phone interview. "It is standard operating procedure after an encounter."

"The NPAs may launch a counter attack, and we want to be ready for that," he added.

On Feb. 19, a suspected member of the NPA was killed in a clash with government troops in Paenaan, Antipolo.

Soldiers of the 80th Infantry Division chanced upon the suspected rebels while conducting a patrol along the Tayabasan River, the police said.

The alleged guerilla who died was identified as "Ka Daniel," a resident of a neighboring barangay also in the city.

Santiago said the police recovered at least one firearm from the scene of the encounter. *Luige del Puerto*

Cops check out abduction claim of FPJ campaigner

By Joyce Abaño

POLICE have expressed skepticism over the reported abduction, robbery and harassment claim of businessman Richard Rivera.

Chief Supt. Prospero Noble said that his doubt came to bear on Thursday after he personally made inquiries on Rivera.

The businessman, who claimed that three unidentified men abducted and robbed him on Feb. 18, yesterday filed a complaint with the Southern Police District.

Rivera was accompanied by his wife, Cristina, lawyer Demaree Ravalla and uncle-in-law, former press secretary and Fernando Poe Jr.'s media bureau chief Rod Reyes.

Rivera, still visibly shaken, told Noble, SPD chief, how three men accosted him at around 11 a.m. Wednesday on a service road in Taguig, just before entering South Superhighway.

He told Noble that he was on his way to deliver Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino campaign materials to Cavite when he decided to park his vehicle to take a leak.

He said three men approached him, pushed him behind the wheel of his car and ordered to drive.

The three men then forced Rivera to withdraw P20,000 from his account at a Metrobank branch in Lipa, Batangas.

Near an abandoned shed in Batangas, the three men forced him to chew on one of the campaign posters of presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr.

The men then forced him to drink a petroleum-based liquid in a plastic container bearing the label "brake fluid."

According to Rivera, "the liquid caused a burning sensation in his mouth, his throat and stomach." He said he vomited after a few gulps.

Rivera said he was ordered to drive again before making a stop on a highway going to Quezon.

Rivera said he and the three men left his vehicle, a Peugeot 2003, by the roadside and transferred to a maroon Toyota car.

After pleading with the men to let him go, Rivera was given P100 in bus fare. But just before they released him, the men took one of Rivera's cellular phones.

He said he went back to Manila and went directly to the Asian Hospital, where his father and brother are physicians.

Noble inquired as to why there was no record of Rivera at the hospital's Emergency Room.

Rivera said he was transferred to the Makati Medical Center after his brother attended to him—that's why he had no record of being admitted to the Asian Hospital.

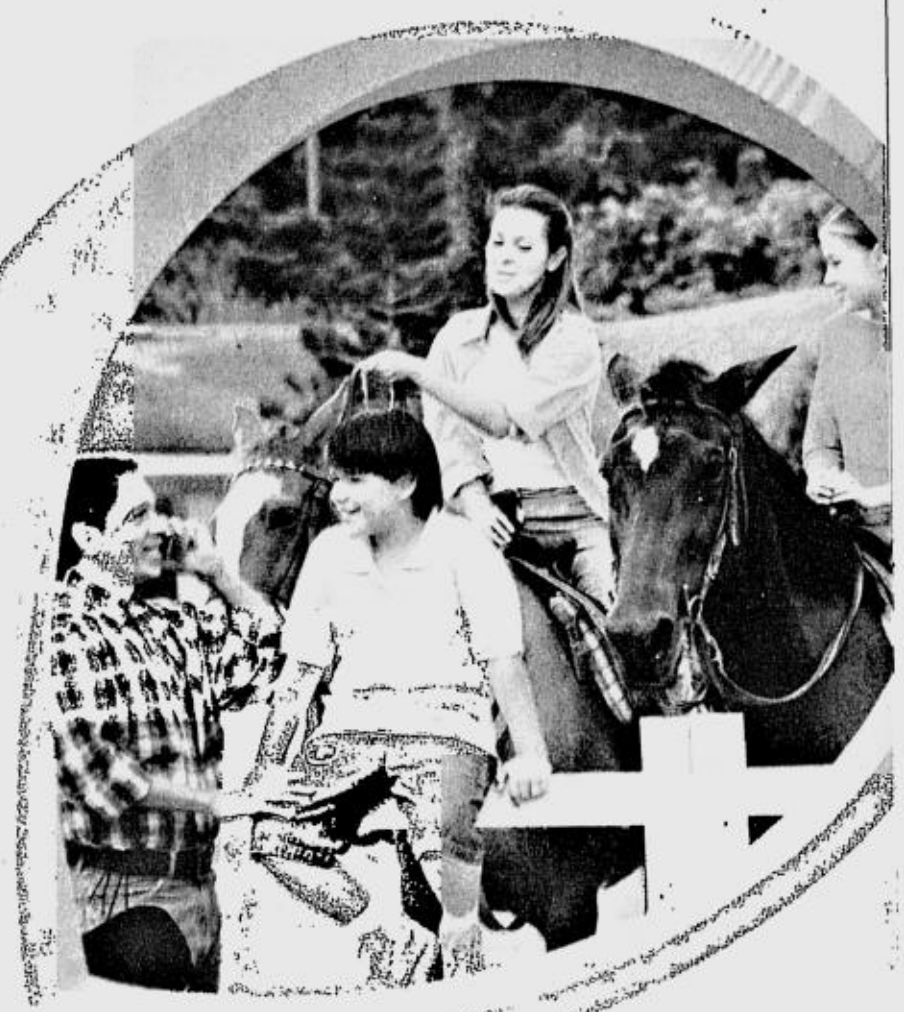
"*Hindi ko alam kung maniniwala ako o hindi when I made inquiries sa Asian hospital* (When I made inquiries at the Asian hospital, I don't know whether to believe Rivera or not)," Noble said in a phone interview on Friday.

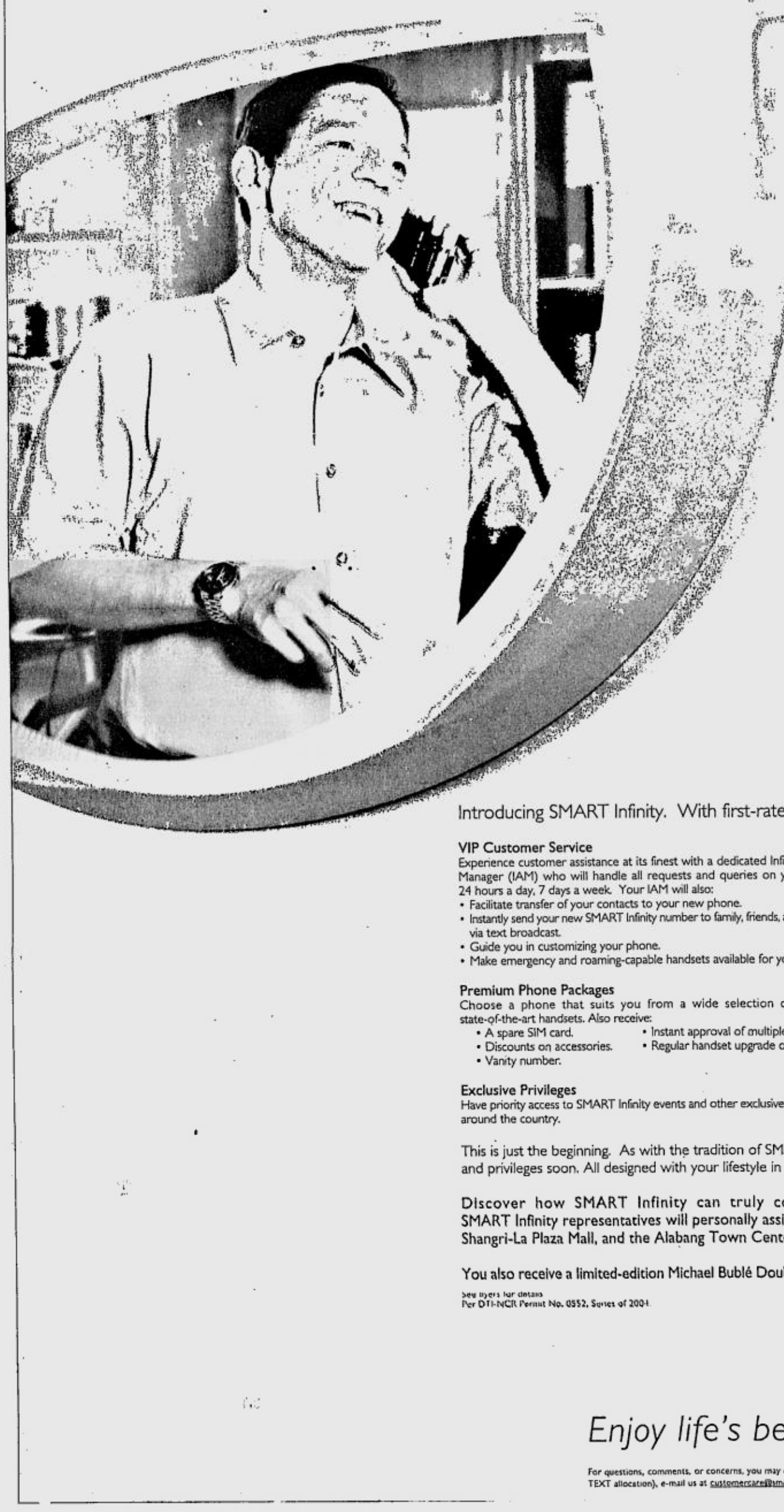
"When the men I asked said that there was no Richard Rivera admitted there, I had gotten skeptical and thought that maybe he was only after a little fame," he added.

The SPD chief then told Rivera to give the description of the three men to a police artist.

"At least we have something to start on," Noble said.

For those who value quality work as well as quality time.





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SPORTS TV
Compiled by L. Manguiat

BASKETBALL: NBA-Hornets vs Nets; 8:30 a.m. (r-8 p.m.): Solar Sports—New Orleans hopes to put the sting on New Jersey.

TENNIS: ATP Kroger St. Jude; 6 p.m.; Star Sports—There won't be the blues, but rather a great serving of tennis action in Memphis as the semifinals take place.

BADMINTON: Hong Kong Badminton Open 2003; 4 p.m.; Solar Sports—See the best shuttlecock smashers in action.

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

PBA Fiesta Conference reels off

Ginebra, Shell collide in 30th season opener

GAMES TODAY
4 p.m.—Opening ceremony
6 p.m.—Ginebra vs Shell

By June Navarro

AFTER a rigorous year of meticulous planning, the Philippine Basketball Association puts to test some of the innovations it installed when the pro league's 30th season unfolds today with the PBA Fiesta Conference at the Araneta Coliseum.

The tournament serves as an appetizer to the regular war in October and is intended to win back the old PBA fans and bridge the traditional, old-fashioned schedule and the new format.

The league had earmarked P1.5 million for the colorful opening ceremony alone set at 4 p.m.

ALVAREZ

After the two-hour opening hoopla, the Shell Turbochargers, who underwent a major facelift in the off-season, clash against the crowd-favorite Barangay Ginebra Kings.

"It's green and go for the PBA. With the necessary ingredients already in place, it's just a question of bringing the people to the games," said PBA chair Buddy Encarnado, who replaced Jun Cabalan of Barangay Ginebra at the helm of Asia's first play-for-pay league.

In an effort to revive its glory years and keep up with the changing times, the PBA discarded its usual three-conference, January-December schedule in favor of the two-conference format which runs from October-June.

The new format allows the league to synchronize with the schedule of the International Basketball Federation (Fiba) and accommodate the training and formation of the national team, among others.

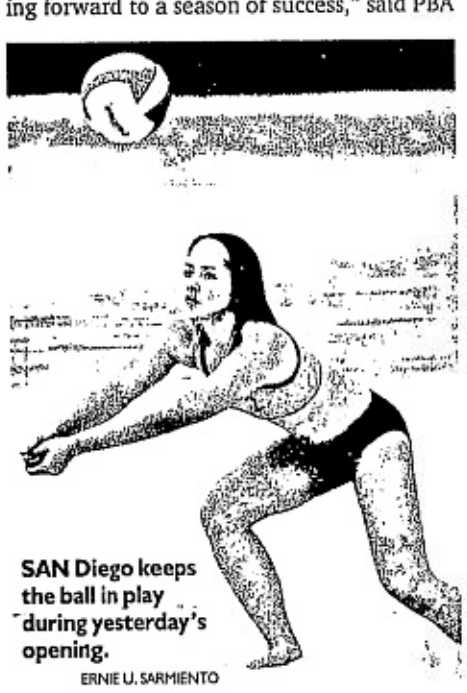
"We had a difficult time trying to put these innovations in place, what with all the controversies surrounding my first year as commissioner. But it's all in the past, we are now looking forward to a season of success," said PBA Commissioner Noli Eala.

Eala said some of the rules were also altered for the PBA to fit into the new system and go in stride with recent developments in the international basketball landscape.

In the Shell-Barangay Ginebra opener, the Turbochargers will parade a pair of promising rookies, two off-season acquisitions, a white import and an American coach tapped to turn things around for Shell.

New Shell coach John Moran will pin his hopes mainly on Marek Ondera, the only fair-skinned import in this conference's batch of reinforcements who, reports say, is just as capable as his counterparts.

Ondera teams up with top draft pick Rich Alvarez and rookie Carlo Sharma along with new Shell players Billy Mamaril and Kalani Ferreria as they combine talent with Shell mainstays Chris Jackson, Ronald Tubid, Chris Calaguio, Mike Hrabak, Tony Dela Cruz, Rensy Bajar and Edwin Bacani.


SAN Diego keeps the ball in play during yesterday's opening.
ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Pampanga lady spikers shine

By Trina Ibarle

CLARK FIELD, PAMPANGA—First-timers Layna Macapagal and Mylene Manuel frolicked in the rains yesterday as they netted two wins in the eliminations of the Petron Ladies Beach Volleyball's first leg at the Clearwater Country Club here.

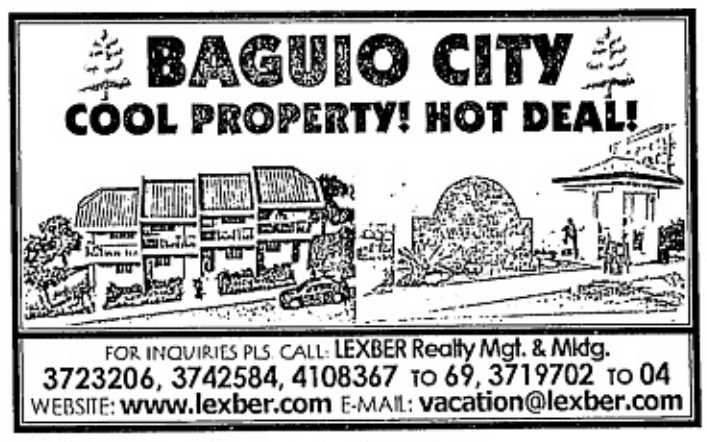
The Pampanga-based tossers first stamped their class over Philippine School of Business Administration's Sherly Abello and Theresa Lopez, 21-5, and made it 2-0 by routing provincemates Merryl Yalung and Danica Macalino, 21-6, to share the Group A lead with Jackie Montefrio and Karla San Diego.

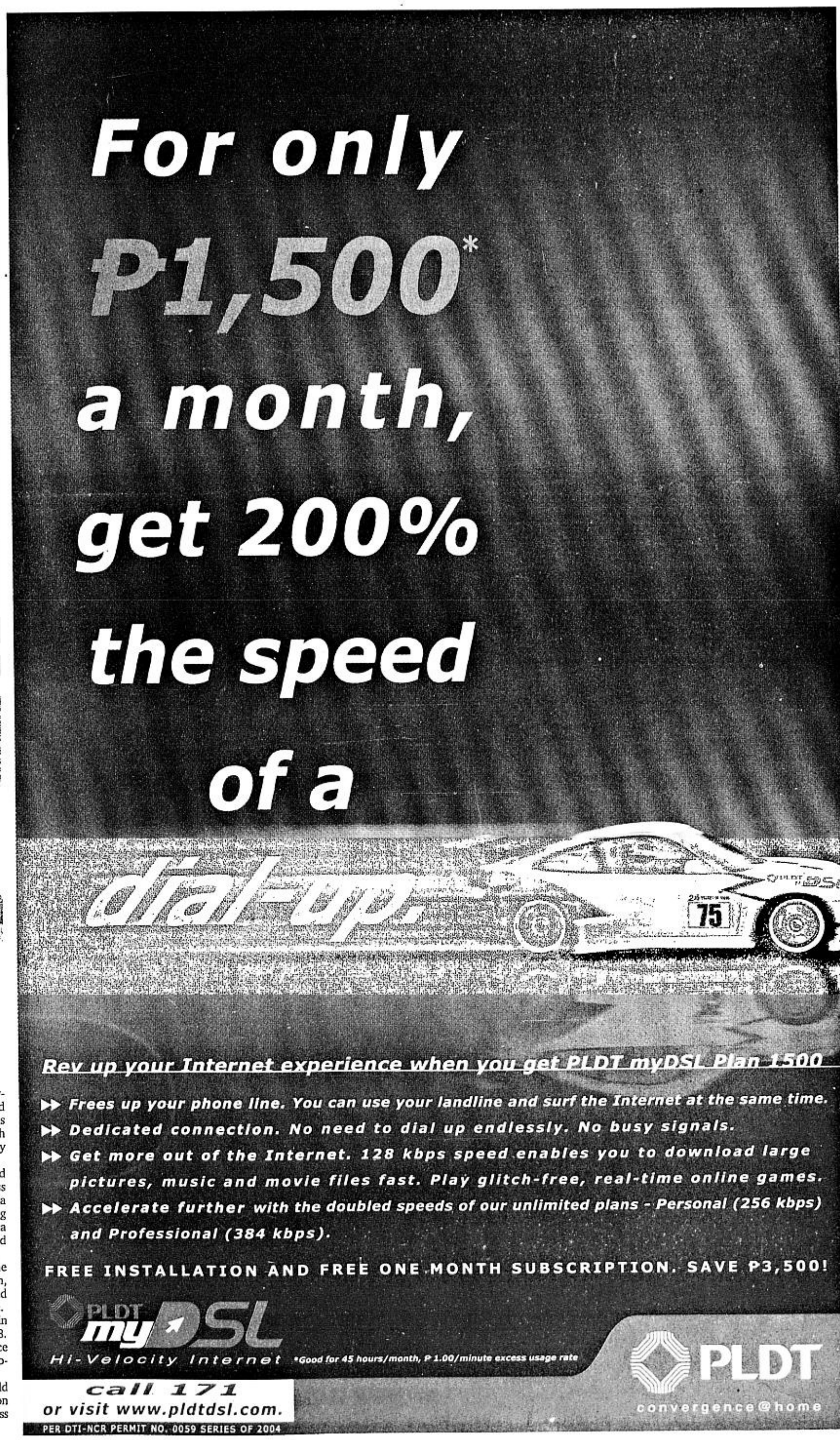
Montefrio and San Diego, members of the University of the Philippines volleyball team, stunned crowd favorite Rosalina Gomez and Menchie Gardener, 21-12, in their first game.

After a bye, they engaged Abello and Lopez in an exciting match before pulling through, 21-18.

The petite pair of Roma Jaro and Joyce Anne Realeza overpowered their taller opponents to pace Group B also with two wins.

The 19-year-old Jaro and the 17-year-old Realeza surprised Mary Gallano and Sharon Ledesma, 21-12, then downed the pair of actress Isabelle Granada and Marisol Teves, 21-10.





FRANCHISE RECORD

Nets post 12th straight win

TORONTO—Jason Kidd tied a season-high with 15 assists and Richard Jefferson had 20 points to help the New Jersey Nets set a franchise-record Friday with their 12th straight victory, 91-72, over the Toronto Raptors.

New Jersey coach Lawrence Frank improved to 11-0. Frank set an NBA record for the best start to a coaching career by winning his 10th consecutive game on Wednesday.

"Any time you put a double-digit win streak together, that's impressive, but we have a bigger picture in mind. We want to get better," Kidd said.

"I'm enjoying this, I really am, because I know what it was like when we were struggling," said Kittles, who is the most senior Net with eight seasons played. "We've had adversity, even this year, but more so in the past. I was on teams that were outmanned many nights."

Donyell Marshall had 17 points and 13 rebounds for the Raptors, who have lost four straight games.

In Auburn Hills, Michigan, Detroit signing Rasheed Wallace won on court 12 minutes in the first half before the NBA ruled he could not play because of a paperwork issue as Minnesota edged the Pistons, 88-87.

Kevin Garnett had 25 points and 13 rebounds to lead the Timberwolves to their fifth straight victory. Detroit has lost seven of its past eight.

Detroit's Chauncey Billups fouled out after reaching his second career triple-double with 20 points, 11 assists and 10 rebounds. Richard Hamilton scored 24 points, Ben Wallace had 17 points and 12 rebounds and reserve Corliss Williamson added 12.

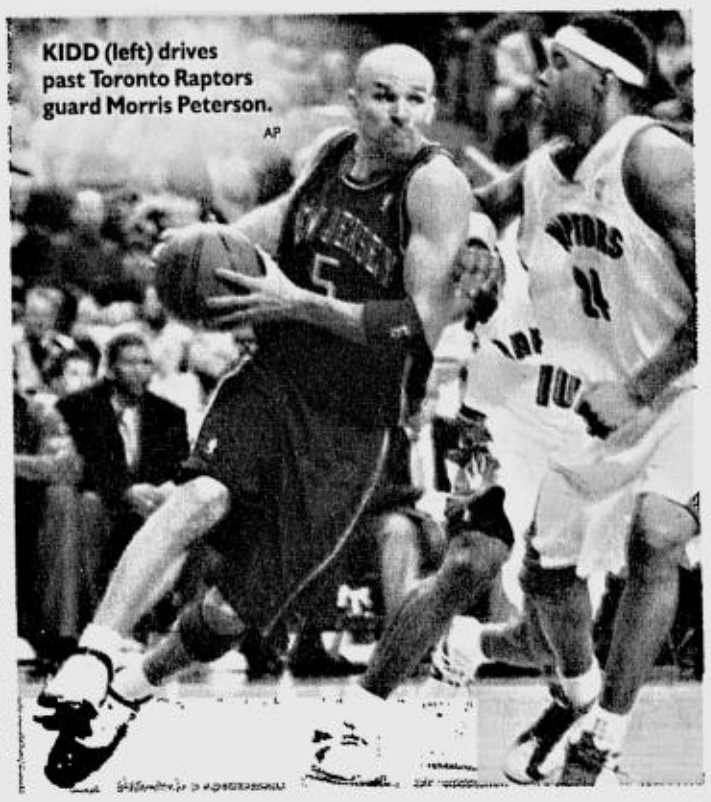
Rodman eyes tryout

In Long Beach, California, Dennis Rodman was released by the Long Beach Jam of the American Basketball Association on Friday to allow the 42-year-old rebounding star the opportunity to try out for NBA teams.

"He's accomplished what he wants to in the ABA and that was to get into 100-percent basketball shape," Jam president Steve Chase said. "Playing in our last two or three games would not get him into better shape. He wants to work out for some NBA teams and we've given him his release to do that."

Complete results:

Indiana 96, Washington 87; Orlando 102, Denver 98; Utah 92, New York 76; Miami 125, Atlanta 92; New Jersey 91, Toronto 72; Cleveland 89, San Antonio 87; Minnesota 88, Detroit 87; Memphis 97, Phoenix 92; Sacramento 91, Chicago 83; LA Lakers 116, Philadelphia 88; Portland 94, Golden State 93


KIDD (left) drives past Toronto Raptors guard Morris Peterson. AP

Pinky's poignant appearance

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

THE OPEN Week begins tomorrow, Monday, at The Riviera Golf Club in Silang, Cavite. That's because the players from the Asian PGA Tour will start streaming into the country to begin practice for the DHL 88th Philippine Open Golf Championship.

The tournament does not start until Feb. 26. But to all who know their golf, a major event such as the Philippine Open, needs one week to complete. Not just four days.

The climax is on Sunday, Feb. 29, when the 65 survivors or so from a starting field of 156 or so go through the pressure-cooker atmosphere of battling for the singular honor of stashing away the country's crown jewel in golf.

Even before the event's Feb. 26 blast-off, the sponsoring DHL will stage the Celebrity Pro-Am on Feb. 25 at Langer, the harder of Riviera's two courses (Couples is the other one). It is in this tournament that top pros from around the world, including 1988 RP Open champion Frankie Miñoza and 2002 RP Open winner Rick Gibson, are paired with the Open's major backers like Casino Filipino, San Miguel Corporation and Mitsubishi Motors Philippines.

It's but right to give one day of joy to the Open's chief sponsors; they have tossed in millions to the prize kitty if only to assure a blue-ribbon event peopled by some of the hotshots of the game, pitting their skills against promising par-busters like the ones from the amateur ranks mostly belonging to the NGAP national training pool.

Because of the DHL RP Open, all roads will lead to Riviera, so to speak, to witness Asia's most prestigious golf event, whose birth in 1913 signaled the beginning of organized golf competitions in this world's biggest continent.

The Philippine Open is older than the US Masters, the world's most applauded golf event for four reasons.

One, the US Masters venue—the Augusta National in Augusta, Georgia—was built by Bobby Jones, the world's greatest golfer that never turned pro.

Two, the US Masters, not yet 65 years old, is the only tournament whose organizers start preparing the course the day after the last day of the tournament is completed. In fact, six months before the start of every US Masters, the Augusta National is closed for play. Only the President of the United States, accompanied by the top honchos of Augusta National, are allowed to play. Every incumbent American President is the only honorary member of the Augusta National.

Three, the US Masters is the only tournament whose reigning champion needs to receive a written invitation from the organizers to defend his crown.

And four, the prize money in the US Masters is never published. A prize money donor can call in his donation to the champion's purse even minutes before the awarding ceremony is held.

The Philippine Open may not be that famous worldwide but, surely, its place in Asia's niche of golf lore is secure.

And while we are at it, another golf tournament worthy of our attention is the Uratex Caddies Open, whose 15th edition ended on Friday at Valley.

Pinky Cheng-Rosagas made a poignant appearance during the event's awarding ceremonies. She came with her hubby, Boying. After shaking hands with the members of the RCL (Robert Cheng Loyalists), Pinky bade farewell.

"I have to rush back home as our child is nursing a fever," she said.

Pinky, trim and slim as usual, had left as quickly as when she came.

"But we understand," said Manding Santos, a lovable Uratex fixture from way back. "Pinky, like her sister Peachy and her hubby Dindo, and brother Big Boy, will always make it a point to come whenever there's a big Uratex bash. With her coming, Pinky's father (Robert Cheng) is now smiling up there.

Dear Robert, who founded the unique event in 1988 in which participating caddies are transported to the venue free of charge, died last year.

And who were the RCL members present on Friday to watch Jose Isedeño win the Uratex crown?

They were none other than distinguished businessmen Danny Pe, Frankie Manalo, Joseph Barretto Lee and Greg Pangan, who reminisced on Robert Cheng's early days as a businessman.

"His gut feel was simply superb," said Frankie Manalo of Robert Cheng.

"Robert had a Midas touch, and his aggressiveness made him a millionaire many times over," said Danny Pe.

Listening to them intensely were chief referee Insan Taby Tabaniag, fellow journalist Roger Flores, Col. Abe Villanueva, Jake Ayson and myself. Joseph had beer but the rest, including 85-year-old Taby, had red wine. My, it was one session I will cherish all my life.

Notwithstanding the red wine—the first two of four bottles killed were chilled by mistake.

***

FASTBREAK. NBN 4 will telecast live the last two days of the DHL 88th Philippine Open on Feb. 28-29. Among those in the TV panel are Ed Picson, Andy Jao, Tommy Manotoc, Dick Ildefonso, Anthony Suntay and Leah Navarro. Al Quinn, my venerated *tocayo*, will direct the show in tandem with the equally respected Ding Bolanos.

2004 Unilever-Student in Free Enterprise (SIFE) National Exposition

The Manila Hotel and Bayview Park Hotel; 21-22 February 2004

programme

Day One: Morning Session
Saturday, February 21, 2004
Time: 8:00-9:00 AM — Registration
Venue: Centennial Hall Lobby

Time: 9:00 AM — OPENING CEREMONY
Venue: Centennial Hall
Opening Production
Tampisaw Cultural Guild and Tubipora Musica, Hoilo Stage College of Fisheries (ISCOF)

Parade of Sub-Regional Centers' Grand Finalists
2004 SIFE-SAGE Grand Finalists
Opening Billboard: SIFE Philippines in Action
Opening Statement and Welcome Remarks
Dr. Ramon Ricardo Roque
Chairman of the Board, SIFE Philippines

The SIFE Philippines Hymn
Tubipora Musica, ISCOF
Introduction of Keynote Speaker
Dr. Robert F. Galindez, President and CEO
Keynote Address
Mr. Howard D. Belton
Chairman and CEO, UNILEVER Philippines

Presentation of SIFE Global Free Enterprise Leadership Award to Her Excellency, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Mr. Bruce A. Nasby,
Senior Vice President, SIFE Global
To be assisted by: Dr. Jens Mueller
Director, SIFE Asia Pacific
Computer Generated League Pairing
Acknowledgements

Afternoon Session
Time: 11:30 AM-12:30 NN
Time: 1:00-5:00 PM — SIFE ELIMINATION LEAGUE
Judges Orientation Luncheon
Elimination League Proper
Venue: Function Room A
Dr. Robert F. Galindez, President
Prof. Sunny Gabinete and SIFE Coordinators

Day Two: Morning Session
Sunday, February 22, 2004
Time: 7:00 AM — SIFE GRAND FINALS
JUDGES Orientation Breakfast

Time: 7:30 AM
Opening Billboard: Onwards to Barcelona
Presentation of Final Round Judges
Grand Finals Proper
Venue: Maynila, Manila Hotel

Time: 11:30 AM — CLOSING CEREMONY
Venue: Maynila
Opening Production
Tampisaw Cultural Guild and Tubipora Musica, ISCOF

Official Announcement of League Winners
Keynote Address
Mr. Bruce A. Nasby
Senior Vice President, SIFE Global

Grand Finals Proper
Awarding of National Champion
Mr. Bruce Nasby to be assisted by:
Dr. Ramon Ricardo A. Roque and
Dr. Robert Galindez

Afternoon Session
Time: 2:00-3:00 PM — Closing Remarks
Dr. Robert F. Galindez, President and CEO
SIFE Philippines

Time: 3:00-4:00 PM — Closing Production
Tampisaw Cultural Guild and Tubipora Musica, ISCOF
Acknowledgements

Time: 4:00-5:00 PM — Walking Tour
Venue: WOW Philippines

Time: 3:00-5:00 PM — Walking Tour
Venue: Intramuros

Evening Session:
Time: 6:00-9:00 PM — Thanksgiving Mass
Venue: Manila Cathedral
SIFE Special Competition
Venue: Bayview Park Hotel

Fellow and Grand Finalists
Venue: Bayview Park Hotel
RECOGNITION DINNER
Opening Production
Tampisaw Cultural Guild and Tubipora Musica, ISCOF

Inspirational Message
Dr. Manuel Punzal, CHED Commissioner
Opening Billboard:
Outstanding Community Outreach
Awarding and Recognition of Outstanding Advisers
Mr. Bruce Nasby, SVP, SIFE Global
Awarding and Recognition of Champion of SIFE Philippines Award
Dr. Jens Mueller, Director Asia Pacific
Closing Remarks
Dr. Robert F. Galindez, President and CEO
Closing Production
Tampisaw Cultural Guild and Tubipora Musica, ISCOF
Acknowledgements

SIFE
STUDENTS IN FREE ENTERPRISE

What is SIFE?

Founded in 1975, SIFE is a global, not-for-profit education organization that is improving the quality of life and standard of living around the world by teaching the principles and values of free enterprise. Working in partnership with business and higher education, SIFE organizers and motivates teams of university students who teach others an understanding of these principles and values.

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2004 Cybercity Teleservices-SAGE Philippines National Exposition

St. Paul College, Q.C. and Bayview Park Hotel; 20-21 February 2004

programme

Day One: Whole Day
Friday, February 20, 2004
Time: 10:00-3:00 PM — MANAGEMENT SEMINAR
Seminar-Workshop on Grant Writing
Venue: St. Paul College of Quezon City
Dr. Curt de Berg
Professor-California State University

Day Two: Afternoon Session
Saturday, February 21, 2004
Time: 11:30-12:30 PM
Time: 1:00-3:00 PM — SAGE ELIMINATION LEAGUE
Judges Orientation Luncheon
Elimination
Venue: Bayview Park Hotel
Dr. Curt de Berg, Global Director
Prof. Ma. Helena Desiree Torre and SIFE League Coordinators

Evening Session
Time: 4:00 PM — SAGE GRAND FINALS
Judges Orientation Dinner
Opening Production
Venue: Bayview Park Hotel
Dr. Curt de Berg, Director, SAGE World
Tampisaw Cultural Guild and Tubipora Musica, ISCOF

Opening Billboard:
Onwards to San Francisco
Official Announcement of League Winners
Presentation of Judges
Keynote Address
Grand Finals Proper
Awarding of National Champion
Closing Remarks
Acknowledgements
Mr. Jonathan Rosenberg, President-CyberCity
Dr. Curt de Berg to be assisted by:
Dr. Robert F. Galindez
Mr. George Sorio, Executive VP-CyberCity

SUMMIT POINT MEET

Jones Jr. back today

A GRAND welcome for Robert Trent Jones Jr. is in the offing as Summit Point Golf & Residential Estate in Lipa City, Batangas marks the return of the renowed course architect to the country with a fellowship tournament among VIPs and celebrities led by former President Fidel V. Ramos today.

The event, teeing off at 9 a.m., will put to focus the first nine completed holes of Summit Point which is actually its back nine with work on the other nine expected to be done before the year.

Summit Point, a joint venture project of Sta. Realty and Development Inc. and Summit Point Realty Corp., is the sixth golf course project in the Philippines of Trent Jones who has carved out another masterpiece on a very natural setting he fondly calls "a mini-mountain".

"Summit Point sits on a naturally beautiful piece of property with such a dramatic site," said Trent Jones Jr.

JONES

Joining the designer in the fellowship tourney are top officials of Summit Point Realty headed by Conrad Leviste and son Robbie and Sta. Lucia Realty's Exequiel Robles (president & CEO), Vicente Santos (executive vice president) and Winifred Gob (project director).

There will be about 60 special guests for the tourney who will be given the chance to play together with Trent Jones Jr. in one of his best creations thus far.

What should make Summit Point different from the present courses is its unique design concept wherein each hole gets an inspiration from famous holes of courses all over the world.

Summit Point breathtaking finishing hole, for instance, has a striking resemblance with the 12th hole of Sotogrande (Spain). Summit Point's No. 18 is such a beauty with a huge body of water on the right and dotted with bunkers from the fairway all the way to the green.

RP badminton player plans to sue coach

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THERE is trouble brewing on the badminton front.

A national player sacked from the Philippine team for, among others, creating mischief that caused his teammates to lose in the Hong Kong Open last November wants to sue national coach Butch Oreta.

Three-time Asian junior campaigner Jaime Junio Jr., who was dropped from the RP roster late last year along with Owen Lopez and Wilson Frias, said he was disputing Oreta's report that they "sabotaged" the RP team's performance in Hong Kong.

Oreta maintained that the basis for the termination of the three ranged from poor performance, absenteeism and negative attitude toward officials of the Philippine Badminton Association.

In his report to the PBA president, former First Lady Ming Ramos, Oreta also said that Junio was caught by a hotel surveillance camera pressing on the room buzzer of his teammates between 2 and 4 a.m. of the competition day.

POULTRY HOUSE INSULATION
(Do you like to increase your chicken production?)

The Philippines remains one of the few sources of healthy chicken with the Asian bird flu.

Isn't this a golden opportunity for your business? The more chicken you produce, the more chicken you sell.

Without increasing your poultry houses, can you increase production? Yes, by controling the temperature in your poultry houses.

With lower temperature, your chicken suffer less heat, are more resistant to diseases and grow bigger and heavier.

Is there a way to control heat in the farm house? Yes, through our Harvi-Foil pure aluminum foil roof insulation from New Zealand!

Our aluminum foil reflects at least 95% of radiant heat from the sun, does not absorb heat, and lowers temperature significantly.

Think why housewives wrap fish in aluminum foil when broiling it in burning coal. The foil reflects heat keeping the fish from being burned.

Beware of cheap foils with aluminized plastic as the reflective material facing the sun. They will distintegrate and lose their reflectiveness over time.

Our Harvi-Foil comes in many models from P45 to P68 per sqm. With a life of at least 10 years, they cost 38 to 57 cents monthly. So economical!

More poultry growers are now using our Harvi-Foil Poulty Farm Insulation. Be one of them and see your business grow! See us for details.

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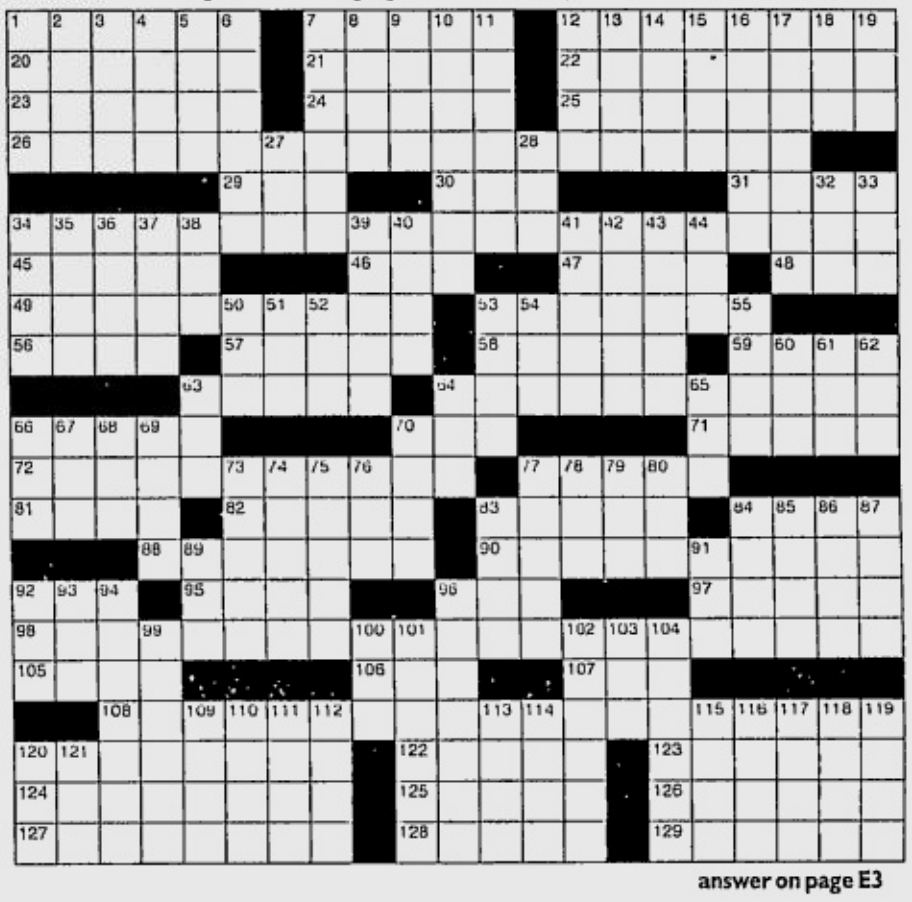
Simply Creative

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

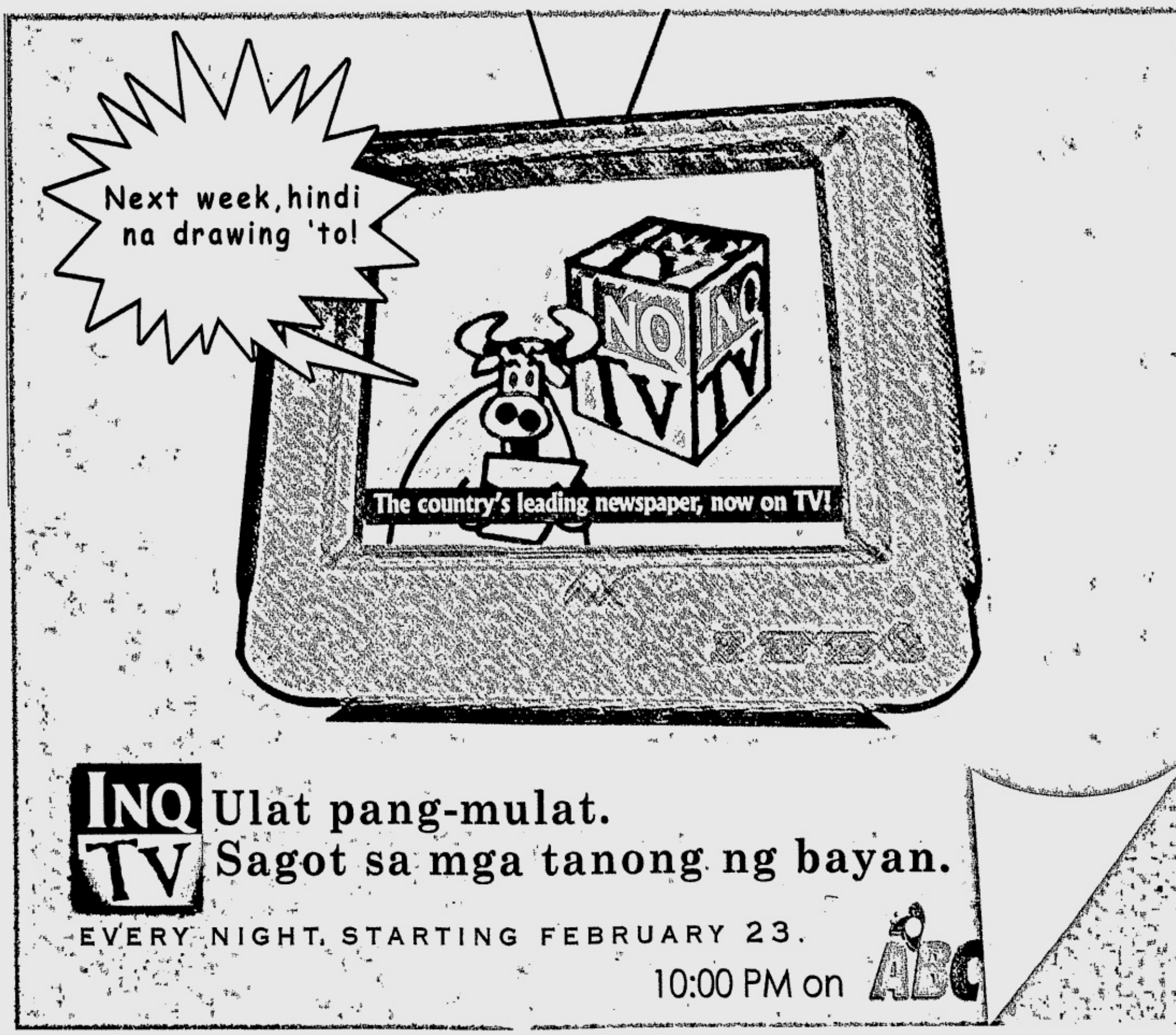
PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Donna J. Stone — **DISCIPLINE**

ACROSS
1 Medicine man
7 Chaucer wrote them
12 "Caught ya!"
20 Wheedle
21 Put forth
22 Large North American grouses
23 "Lawrence of Arabia" star
24 "It" girl Bow
25 Honored poet, e.g.
26 Start of a riddle
29 Opposite of out
30 Spanish uncle
31 Gillette razor
34 Part 2 of riddle
45 "Tomb Raider" character Lara
46 Shade tree
47 Is indebted to
48 Hither's partner
49 Part 3 of riddle
53 12 a.m., informally
56 Catch a glimpse of
57 Conjecture
58 Baseball's Lefty
59 Pesters
63 Billing cycle, often
64 Part 4 of riddle
66 Lead the way
70 Boxing stats
71 Entire spectrum
72 End of riddle
77 Nap noisily
81 Lunch hour
82 Martini garnish
83 Sty residents
84 Humorist Bombeck
88 Israel's Sea of —
90 Start of the riddle's answer
92 Smart — whip
95 Minute part
96 In the dumps
97 Edwin of Reagan's cabinet
98 Middle of answer
105 Novice
106 — good deed
107 Clandestine org.
108 End of answer
120 Hats and such
122 Distress signal
123 Fought
124 Take on gradually
125 Houston hockey team
126 Rubbed out
127 Superlatively severe
128 Lock of hair
129 It's good for what ails you

DOWN
1 Garbage-transporting boat
2 Shake-spearean verb
3 ". . . beauty is — forever"
4 State of mind
5 "That's — ask"
6 "You — worry" ("It'll be OK")
7 Electronic music
8 Wheel shaft
9 Bit of foliage
10 Editor's catch
11 — drugs (cholesterol-lowering medications)
12 Molokai or Capri, e.g.
13 German coal-producing region
14 "— can dream, can't he?"
15 Used to be
16 Most citizens abide by it
17 Not at all ill
18 Pantry pest
19 Mao — -tung
27 AAA offering
28 Selfish sort
32 Vintage car
33 Actress Sothern
34 Aleve may relieve it
35 Very, in Versailles
36 Cager's target
37 "One — land . . ."
38 Rds.
39 "Good grief!"
40 32 Down's producer
41 Lot fled from it
42 Confess (to)
43 Sam of "Jurassic Park"
44 Concorde, e.g.
50 Swelled head
51 Be in a marathon
52 One doing cat scans?
53 — scale (mineral hardness measurer)
54 Suffix with cyan
55 "Orinoco Flow" singer
60 Intention
61 Wildebeest
62 Cpl.'s superior
63 Ran across
64 Pampered person?
65 Get older
66 Gibson ingredient
67 Tres minus dos
68 "Sands of — Jima"
69 China's — Xiaoping
70 Baby-bouncing body part
73 Hue
74 Best of the lot
75 La Scala site
76 Eden evictee
77 Stockholm citizen
78 Zilch
79 Lennon's widow
80 Gun, as an engine
83 Old Iranian ruler
84 German river
85 Ostrichlike bird
86 Assorted stuff: Abbr.
87 "I'd hate to break up —"
89 Assistance
91 CPR pro
92 Make a move
93 Bashful
94 Flyboys' operations center
96 — Brothers ("Flowers on the Wall" singers)
99 Less quiet
100 Mean Amin
101 Like skim milk
102 Door's provision
103 Life story
104 Woodworking gizmo
109 Mattress size
110 Hawaiian goose
111 Feedbag fill
112 Move like a fox?
113 Loser to a tortoise
114 Love god
115 Make well
116 Extract juice from
117 Besides that
118 Miffed, with "off"
119 Whirlpool
120 "— got the whole world . . ."
121 Chow down



answer on page E3



INQ TV
Ulat pang-mulat.
Sagot sa mga tanong ng bayan.
EVERY NIGHT, STARTING FEBRUARY 23.
10:00 PM on ABC

'TC' hopefuls start warm-up

THIS year's search for the country's top 3-year-old gallopers unfolds today when the first leg of the "Road to Triple Crown" Stakes is held at the Santa Ana Park.

Six classy chargers are set to collide in the 1,600-meter race carrying a total pot of P750,000 sponsored by the Philippine Racing Commission (Philracom) under chairman Jimmy Dilag.

Heading the hunt for the P450,000 top purse is fast-stepping Speed O'War, a stakes-placed juvenile performer last year who is set to be skippered by jockey Virgilio Camañero Jr.

Likely to provide the biggest challenge to Speed O'War are stable mates Shock and Awe and Nothing to Declare of noted sportsman Hermie Esguerra, last year's winningest horseowner.

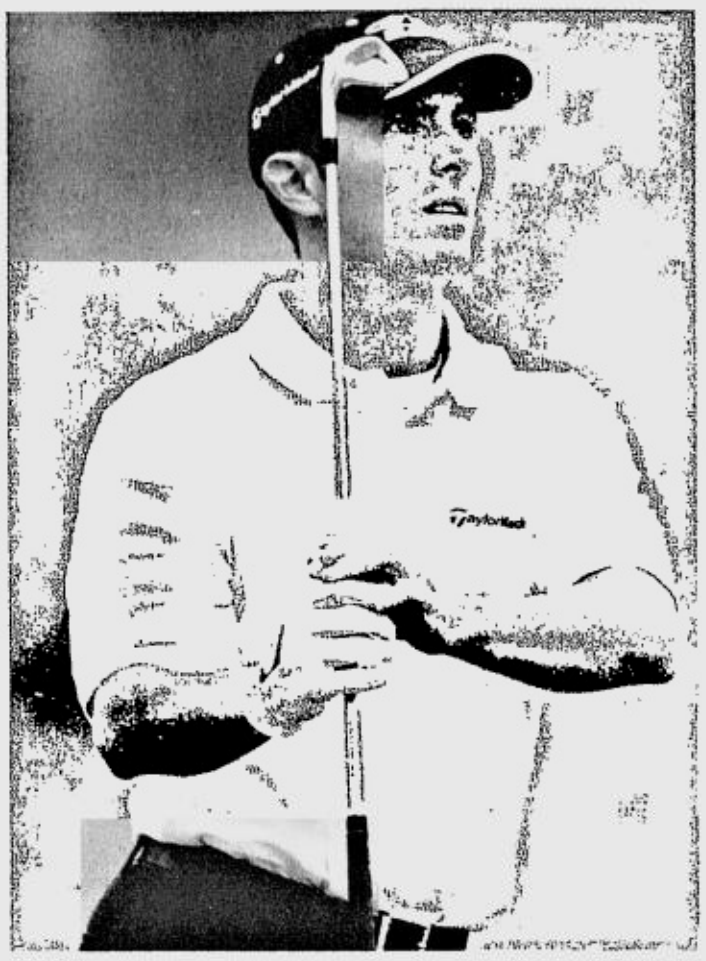
Others who are also vying for the top spot are the Rudy Mendoza Stable's Batangas Force and Flying Jordan, and Albatross.

Lending support to the day's main event is the Philracom "Nourish the Children" Stakes Race, a 1,600-m event to be held for the benefit of the Feed the Children charity foundation.

Proceeds of the said race will be used by the FTC, through its local affiliate FTC Philippines Inc., in providing food, clothing, educational supplies and other necessities to children and communities in depressed areas.

Five tried and tested gallopers are set to compete in the race. They are multiple stakes winners Arriba King, Material Maker, Mica's Magic, Hazmoore and Master Ijhay.

A total of 13 races are set to flag off today at the Santa Ana Park starting at 1:30 p.m.



WEIR watches his approach shot at the par five 17th hole. REUTERS

Weir, Maruyama share Nissan Open top spot

LOS ANGELES—Mike Weir birdied five of his last seven holes for a 7-under 64 that gave him a tie for the lead with Shigeki Maruyama, and a share of the 36-hole record at the Nissan Open.

Weir also raised hopes of becoming a back-to-back winner at Riviera since Ben Hogan, although none of that seemed to matter to a gallery gone gaga over John Daly.

Coming off a stunning victory last week at Torrey Pines—his first on the PGA Tour in nine years—Daly played even better Friday in his round of 64 that left him only two shots out of the lead.

"It's a great feeling," Daly said. "I really didn't mis-hit a golf shot."

He wasn't alone on a cool, overcast day off Sunset Boulevard, where the average score was 69.76. Tiger Woods shot a 66 and didn't make up any ground, heading into the weekend eight shots behind Weir and Maruyama.

Maruyama, a member at Riviera, was only hopeful of making the cut and wound up with a 66. He and Weir were at 12-under 130, tying the 36-hole record set by Davis Love III in 1992.

Scott McCarron (65) and Briny Baird (62) were another shot back.

Daly also tied a record—most trips to the media center in one week.

He was as entertaining in 20 minutes with reporters as he was on the golf course. *AP*

KGB tourney

BROADCAST golfers of the Kapisanan ng mga Golfers sa Brodkast (KGB) will challenge the long and tricky Villamor golf course in Pasay City in their monthly tournament this Tuesday, Feb. 24. The 18-hole medal play tournament is hosted by Air Force chief Lt. Gen. Nestor R. Santillan and the Villamor Golf Council. Also providing support are Globe Telecom and the Philippine Coast Guard. Tee-off time is from 6:30-8:30 a.m.

History at the Park

ANOTHER first was achieved in the history of local racing yesterday.

We're talking about the triple carryover which had the whole *bayang karerista* going gaga over the explosive 14-race program at the Santa Ana Park.

From the second race to the last, practically all racing fans became a part of the first Pick 6, first Winner-Take-All and Pick 5 events, each concentrating on their choices in a bid to join the winners at the end of the day.

"*Ang daming tao at ang haba ng pila, sir,*" said my Silip Boy, gasping for breath after joining the long queue and placing his bets inside the jampacked Park.

Yesterday's triple carryover (First Pick 6-P1,616,254, First WTA-P1,140,002 and Pick 5-P749,474) stemmed from Friday's program dubbed by fans as the "night of the longshots" wherein five unheralded entries stole the limelight and sent *dehadistas* whooping and hollering.

Quite noticeably, *dehados* started making waves since the Philracom, through the leadership of Jimmy "Action Man" Dilag and solid support of commissioners Eddie Jose, Eduardo Domingo Jr., Roger Tandian and Vergel Cruz, declared the holding of the no-bearing, no-effect races only last Tuesday.

A brilliant move according to experts; the same scheme will also be implemented in this coming week's program at the San Lazaro Leisure Park which is staging the revival of the Freedom Cup on Wednesday.

Sa mga tumama kahapon, congratulations *sa inyong lahat!*

***

A reader from Blue Ridge, QC, mailed us to air his views on the *wa*-class racetrack, Ira Herrera and JR Cabansag. Read on:

A pleasant day to you, Mr. Villanueva.

I am one of the many readers of your column, "One Winner," in the Philippine Daily INQUIRER. It's a wonderful opportunity for me to write to you (for the first time) my comments and insights regarding our horseracing industry which, in spite of its many ups and downs, still managed to stay afloat in contributing to the government coffers.

Anyway, I would like to share my own comment regarding the so-called "*wa*-class" moniker being pointed to the San Lazaro Leisure Park racetrack in Carmona which the MJCI management is trumpeting as the future world-class racetrack in the Philippines, just like the ones found in other countries.

ONE WINNER

Edwin Villanueva

We all know what happened last year. Who can forget the unexpected power malfunction that hit the Carmona turf for two racing days that forced the postponement of the racing schedule during those two days? And in spite of the explanations stated by the SLLP management, the disappointments of the *bayang karerista* about that incident were definitely evident deep-down. And look at what happened to super horse Wind Blown during his "practice run" that eventually gave way to the SLLP not witnessing him in the end. What a pity. But as they say, there's a price to pay after all.

With these unfortunate events, I definitely agree with the "*wa*-class" description. Besides, who can blame them from making this new horseracing terminology? They're all witnesses to what had transpired last year. And if that was not enough, look what happened to the case of Mr. Ira "Mr. Three and Fifty to Travel" Herrera. I'm one of Mr. Herrera's fans who are very impressed with his skills to call the races. The unforgettable incident involving him was too much for him to swallow that he decided to resign as a race caller at the "*wa*-class" turf and would rather concentrate his race calling skills at the Santa Ana Park racetrack.

A wise decision indeed, Mr. Herrera. His departure, however, was a big loss, especially on the part of the Winners Circle Productions Inc. (WCPI).

He did a masterful job also in conducting his own race analysis alongside Mr. Howie Basilio and Mr. Vince Trinidad. To you, "Mr. Three and Fifty to Travel," just keep up the good work.

Before I end this letter, I would like to ask you about what happened to the former San Lazaro race caller, Mr. JR Cabansag. Many of the racing fans, I feel, really miss him in conducting his own race calling wits that were so energetic just like Mr. Herrera.

Maraming salamat po. Mabuhay ang bayang karerista!

Mark Anthony A. Canlas
5 Starline Road
Blue Ridge, Quezon City

***

Thanks a million for writing, Mr. Canlas. We'll try our best to give you the latest on JR Cabansag next week.

***

E-mail One Winner at evillanueva@inquirer.com.ph or edongvilla@yahoo.com.

Freedom Cup set Wednesday

LOCAL horse racing joins the rest of the nation in the celebration of the 18th anniversary of the Edsa People Power Revolution with the staging of the P1-million Freedom Cup, the year's first classic horse race set for Wednesday, Feb. 25, at the San Lazaro Leisure Park in Carmona, Cavite.

The country's top local and imported gallopers are running in the all-comers' championship set over a unique distance of 1,750 meters at the SLLP's outer track.

Principally backed by the Philippine Racing Commission (Philracom) and the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO), the event is staged in honor of former President Corazon C. Aquino, who has been invited as guest of honor.

Heading the field is Red Star Rising, last year's winner of the prestigious Presidential Gold Cup and Open Classic, who will be gunning for an unprecedented third straight classic victory.

Joining Red Star Rising in the battle for top honors are seasoned stakes campaigners Success Story and War Hero, as well as top local bets Dandansoy and Free Wind.

Also competing are imports Absolute Charmer, Mist, Real Slew, Royal Catch, Time Gentleman and Treeline.

The winner of the featured race gets P600,000, with the second to fourth placers getting P225,000, P125,000 and P50,000, respectively.

RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA
BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Worth Ur While 2. Coolmore 3. Skip Away
Race 2—1. Key Apo 2. Conquer D Sun 3. Claim 4. Cycles
Race 3—1. Sir Nicolas 2. Full of Success 3. Aeyu's Glory
Race 4—1. I Love This Game 2. Bella Firenze/Overture 3. Hurricane Doding 4. Renegade
Race 5—1. Sir Lawrence 2. Hope 3. Scene Stealer 4. Feast of Diamond 5. Wild Orphan
Race 6—1. Material Maker 2. Arriba King
Race 7—1. Last Hazm 2. Shadowfax 3. Commodore Tiger 4. Hand in Hand
Race 8—1. Nothing to Declare/Shock and Awe 2. Albatross 3. Speed O War
Race 9—1. Rumba 2. King's Choice 3. Joker 4. Prickly Heat 5. Boys Town Kid
Race 10—1. Twin Brother 2. Black Gold 3. Suterian Era 4. Aspire 5. Sakura Ijhay
Race 11—1. Speed Mountain 2. Ganda 3. May's Magic 4. Dennis D menace 5. Friendly Lover
Race 12—1. Adam's Call 2. Velocity 3. Hyperbid
Race 13—1. Johann Song 2. Ocean Wings 3. Assunta de Rio 4. Legitimo
Race 14—1. Star Worth 2. Incrediview 3. Blitzkrieg 4. Grande Ecole 5. C'est Moi

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Gorres-Mangubat bout ends in draw

A NASTY cut over the left eye of Z Gorres caused by an accidental headbutt from Randy Mangubat put an abrupt end to their 10-round superflyweight fight at the Makati Coliseum Friday.

Referee Ferdinand Estrella declared the fight a technical draw at one minute 35 seconds of the second round after ring physician Nasser Cruz declared Gorres unfit to continue.

The cut needed 12 stitches to close.

Mangubat also sustained a half-inch gash near his right eye from another collision of heads in the opening round.

Mangubat's Mandaluyong-based Japanese manager, Yuki Murayama, said he plans to file a protest with the Games and Amusement Board (GAB) against Estrella for failing to deduct a point from Gorres.

After landing at least two hard rights to the face, the shorter but more experienced Mangubat forced himself inside the defense of the counter-punching Gorres early in the second round. The tactic, however, caused the clash of heads that ended the fight. *Rey Danseco, Contributor*

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	FRIDA / BAHID
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	MILAN
B	BURLESK KING
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	MILAN
CINEMA-2	LAST SAMURAI
CINEMA-3	WISHING STAIRS
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	MASTER AND COMMANDER (RI)
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	TALE OF TWO SISTERS
CINEMA-6	TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
CINEMA-7	MAGIC KITCHEN
CINEMA-8	GUSTO KO SA LALAKI (RI)
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	RUNAWAY JURY
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	HAUNTED MANSION
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	COLD MOUNTAIN
CINEMA-12	CHASING LIBERTY
CINEMA-14	KUYA
CINEMA-15	MILAN

LORES

CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN

(LAS PIÑAS)	MILAN
CINEMA-1	MONA LISA SMILE
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-4	CLOSED

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARAÑAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

SPORTSWATCH

Henman bundles out Federer

ROTTERDAM, Netherlands—Tim Henman knocked out Roger Federer, 6-3, 7-6 (9), in their ABN Amro tournament quarterfinal on Friday, and improved his record against the world's top player to 6-1. Henman also ended Federer's career-best 16-match winning streak, during which he earned the Australian Open title and world No. 1 ranking. Fifth-seeded Henman will now face sixth-seeded Lleyton Hewitt in the semifinals after the Australian defeated third-seeded Rainer Schuettler of Germany, 7-6 (5), 6-3. Henman is 0-6 against Hewitt, and he said he was looking forward to improving that record. The other semifinal on Saturday will pit defending champion Max Mirnyi of Belarus against the winner of a late match between No. 2 Juan Carlos Ferrero and Rotterdam native Raemon Sluiter. Mirnyi beat Jarkko Nieminen of Finland, 6-4, 7-6 (3). *AP*

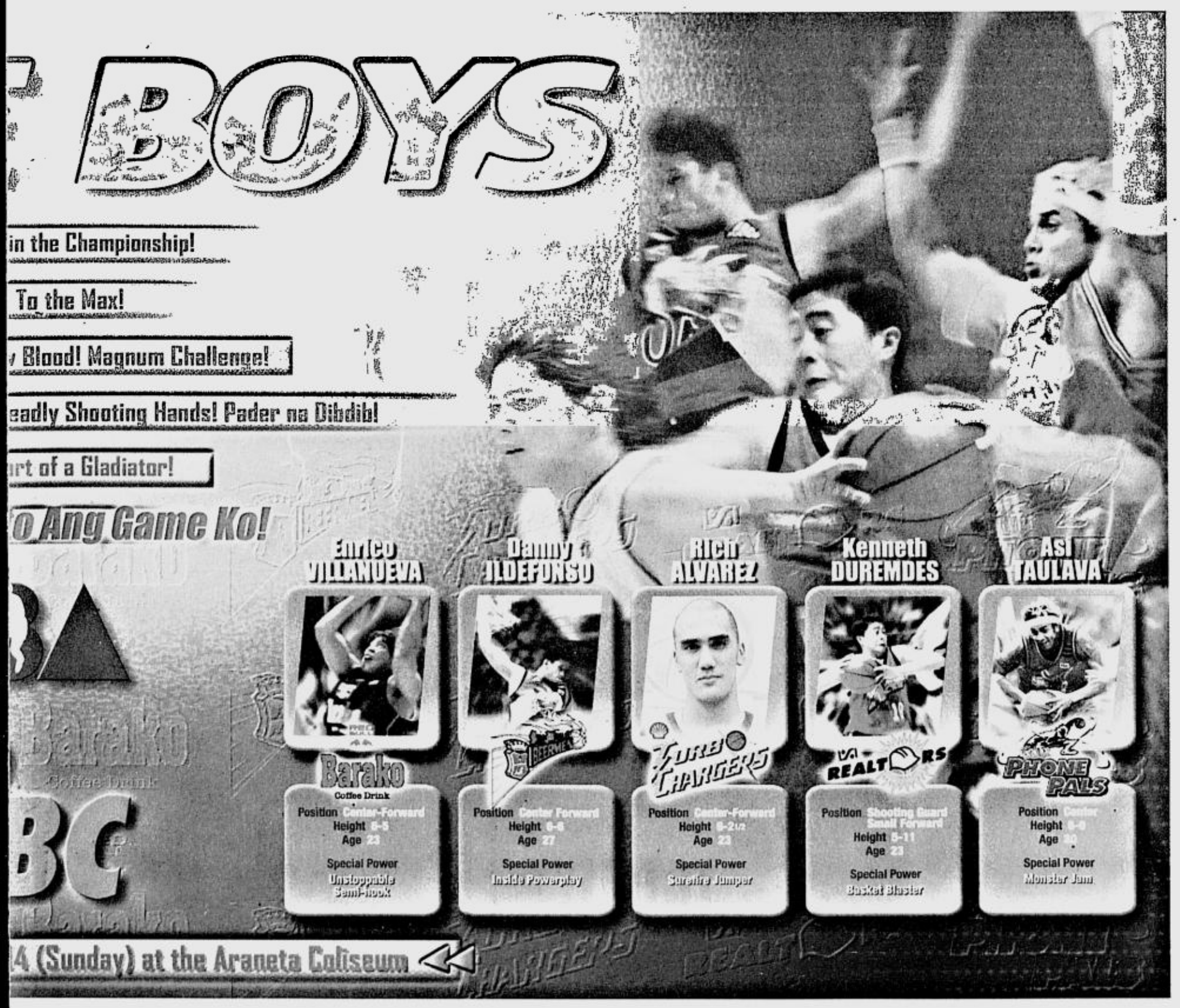
LGBA derbies slated at Roligon

SCREENING and wingbanding of cockerels will be conducted by the Luzon Gamecock Breeders Association (LGBA) from March 1 to 31 in preparation for the 2004 stag derbies series to be presented by the LGBA at the Roligon Mega cockpit. For more details, contact the LGBA office at Rm. 128, Sulo Hotel, Quezon City. Look for Taz Lunasco or call 926-7808 or 926-5072. LGBA president Rene "Boy" Diaz stressed that there is absolutely no extension of screening dates. Meanwhile, the National Federation of Gamefowl Breeders (NFGB), an umbrella organization of major breeders groups in the country including the LGBA, will also conduct screening and wingbanding from April 1 to 30. Likewise, the "NFGB Bakbakan 8-Cock Open Invitational Derby" will be held at Roligon on April 12, 14, 16, 19, 21 and 23. Entry fee is P15,000 with a guaranteed prize of P3 million.

'Walang Iwanan' tilt unfolds Feb. 28

THE "WALANG Iwanan 4-Cock Derby" gets going on Saturday, Feb. 28, at the Roligon Mega Cockpit, a popular venue for upcoming cockers and commercial breeders who want to make a name in the highly competitive *sabong* circuit. For a minimal investment of only P5,500, Roligon owner and host Rolly Ligon stakes a guaranteed prize of P440,000. A bonus prize of P20,000 awaits the fastest kill champion. Also slated is the "Largahan 5-Cock Derby" (March 4, 6 and 9) with a guaranteed prize of P1.5 million and entry fee of P8,800. The champion handler and gaffer gets P100,000 and P50,000, respectively. A top prize of P250,000 goes to the fastest-kill champion. Interested parties may call 833-2275, 833-1638, 852-9812 and 852-9774 (look for Hazel or Shirley).

9 BALL QUALIFIERS. Veteran billiards internationalist Dondon Razalan topped the first qualifying leg of the Motolite Philippine Nine Ball Open (Fil 9 Open) at the SM Megamall recently. Photo shows Billiards and Snookers Congress of the Philippines secretary general Kinny de Tagle (left) congratulating Razalan, while Fil-9 Open project director Arnold Arandilla (right) congratulates Deo Mark Alpajora. Razalan, Alpajora, Panfilo Damuag and Eric Navarette (2nd and 4th from left) are the first four qualifiers for the event's finals in October where over P1 million in cash prizes is at stake.



Ming leads guests

FORMER First Lady and current president of the Philippine Badminton Association Amelita "Ming" Ramos leads a distinguished list of guests at the formal launching of Dunlop Badminton 2004 range at the Palms Country Club in Alabang, Muntinlupa City on Feb. 25. She will deliver the keynote speech after a product presentation.

Other invited personalities include Cynthia Carreon, sports tourism director of the Philippine Tourism Authority, former Olympian Weena Lim, Mars Chua of Sportshouse, Rudy Tan of Burlington, national coaches and players.

Dunlop-Slazenger Group officials led by K.L. Chong, managing director for Asia Pacific, Paul Angel, Racket Sports Design manager, and Roland So, sales and marketing manager, will also attend.

Dunlop Sports, the leading sports equipment developer and manufacturer, plans to strengthen its dominance of the market with its new Badminton 2004 range which will also be launched in Malaysia and other Asia-Pacific countries during the week.

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Drew Barrymore proclaims love for giant walrus

NEW YORK—Drew Barrymore became smitten with one of her co-stars in the new romantic comedy "50 First Dates," but it wasn't Adam Sandler—it was a gigantic walrus.

"I was obsessed with him. I wouldn't leave his side for a second," Barrymore told reporters in Honolulu recently.

In "50 First Dates," Sandler plays a veterinarian at a marine park in Hawaii. (The walrus is his patient.)

Barrymore said she found herself hugging and petting the walrus.

"His mouth is full of gums, there's no teeth, so you can feed him ice and put your whole hand in his mouth," the actress said. "And he painted me this painting (using a pacifier-like brush in his mouth) and I have it up on my wall. It's so cool."

Barrymore plays a young accident victim with short-term memory loss. When she goes to sleep at night, she forgets everything that happened to her the previous day. Sandler's character desperately wants her to remember him, so he tries to win her over each day.

As for her real-life boyfriend, Fabrizio Morietti of the Strokes, Barrymore says she treats each date as if it's their first.

"You should never lose that enthusiasm, no matter how long you're in your relationship, like the 'getting ready to go on a date' process," she said. *AP*

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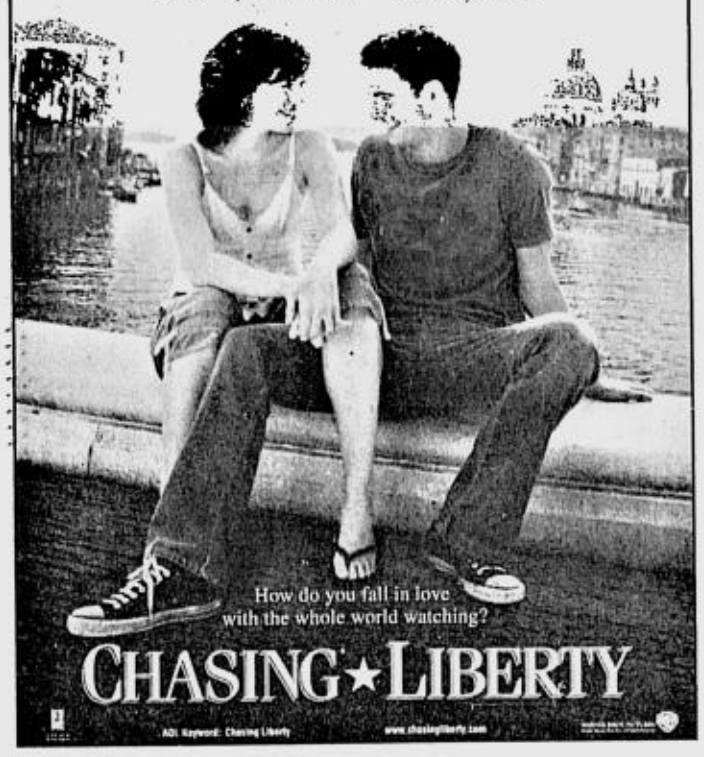
MATTHEW GOODE


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BEST ACTRESS NAOMI WATTS
WINNER BEST ACTOR 2003 Venice International Film Festival
WINNER BEST FILM OF THE YEAR BEST ACTOR 2003 National Board of Review
WINNER BEST ACTRESS 2003 Chicago Film Critics Society
WINNER BEST ACTRESS 2003 Los Angeles Film Critics Association
WINNER BEST ACTRESS 2003 Chicago Film Critics
WINNER BEST ACTRESS 2003 San Diego Film Critics
WINNER BEST ACTRESS 2003 Southeastern Film Critics
WINNER BEST PICTURE 2003 Florida Film Critics
WINNER BEST ACTOR BEST ACTRESS 2003 Washington DC Film Critics
The guilty must be punished.
a film by alejandro gonzalez inarritu
21 GRAMS
How much does revenge weigh?
NAOMI WATTS SEAN PENN BENICIO DEL TORO
THE VICTIM THE HUNTER THE HUNTED

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7
Ali 1 KUYA
Ali 2 MILAN
Ali 3 RUNAWAY JURY
Ali 4 COLD MOUNTAIN
Ali 5 HAUNTED MANSION
Ali 6 HAUNTED OFFICE
Ali 7 CHASING LIBERTY
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FEB 25 PBA: RED BULL VS. TALK N' TEXT
FEB 29 PBA: TALK N' TEXT VS. SHELL
MAR 1 NCA 7-COCK DERBY
MAR 3 NCA 7-COCK DERBY
MAR 6 BB. PILIPINAS CORONATION NIGHT
MAR 7 PBA: STA. LUCIA VS. COKE
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HAUNTED MANSION GP 11:15, 1:15, 3:15, 5:15
TOTALLY BLONDE R13 - 7:15, 9:30
COLD MOUNTAIN R18 12:55, 4:00, 7:05, 10:10
MILAN PG13 11:50, 2:15, 4:50, 7:25, 10:00
CHASING LIBERTY PG13 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
21 GRAMS R18 1:35, 4:15, 6:55, 9:35
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krista ALLEN
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3. guess i'm falling 4 u
4. that's how it goes
5. peroxide swing
6. me & mrs. you
7. tell him he's yours
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TOTALLY Blonde

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Acoustic competition at Brick Road in Sta. Lucia East Mall

AMATEUR acoustic groups are welcome in the Acoustic Jam Competition at The Brick Road in Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall in Cainta, Rizal.

Cash prizes await the winners.

Groups of three or four composed of male or female members between 18 to 30 years old may join by filling up a form available at the Ad & Promo Department, Basement Level, Phase III of Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall.

Contestants will compete every Saturday night starting March 6.

For details, call the Ad & Promo Department at 681-5401 local 109.

Lorna . . .

From page A32

Gantimpala Theater Foundation on "Concert at the Park" at the Rizal Park Open-Air Auditorium at 5 p.m. today.

'Astroboy' on Animax

THE EXCITING adventures of Astroboy, the boy robot with a heart, will be telecast in their original Japanese version on Animax every Sunday at 11 a.m. and 9 p.m. Animax showcases popular Japanese animation programming and may be viewed on SkyCable 26, Home Cable 18, and Dream 48.

'We Built This City'

DISCOVERY Channel presents the three-hour special "We Built This City" from Feb. 23 to 27, 10 to 11 p.m., with repeats the following day at 2 p.m. The special investigates how some of the world's greatest cities rose to prominence through architectural, engineering and scientific breakthroughs.

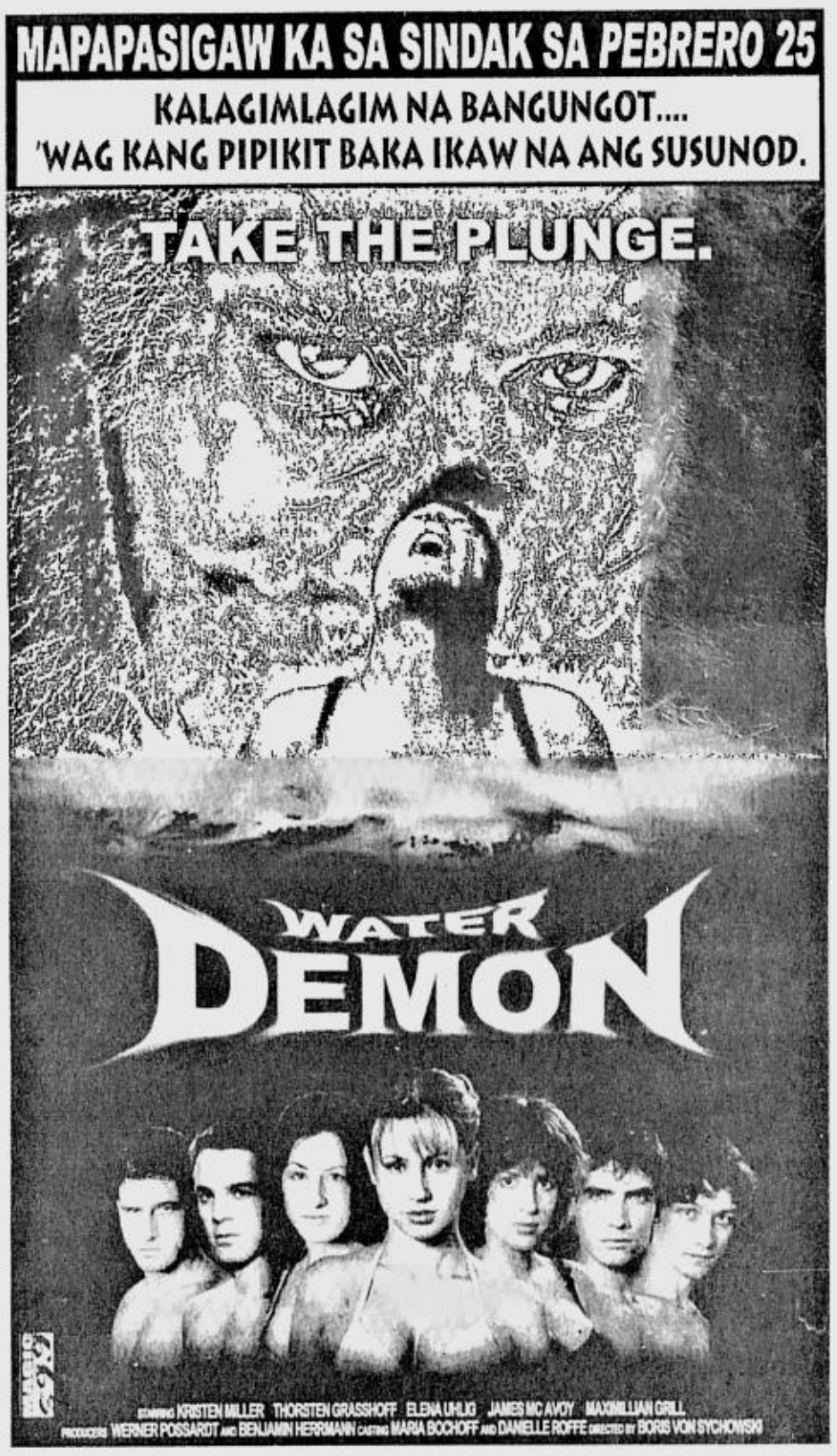
Child Savvy seminar

CORBAN Daycare and Tutorial Center (842-6665) is presenting a Child Savvy seminar for parents, pre-school educators and *yayas* on Feb. 28 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

The seminar, which will be held in Taglish, will discuss the psychological and emotional life of children up to age six. It aims to familiarize participants with kids' emotional patterns, to increase understanding of behavioral problems, and to learn how to manage preschool children.

'Men in Black, 2'

AT 8 p.m. on Feb. 22, "Men in Black, 2" premieres on Asian television on HBO's The Big One. Encore telecast is at 10:30 p.m. on Feb. 28. The film stars Will Smith and Tommy Lee Jones.



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Lorna Tolentino's turn to host 'All About You'

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

CHANNEL 7's Sunday morning show, "All About You," was initially hosted by **Lucy Torres-Gomez** when it started telecasting a year ago. Viewers thought that Lucy would be the program's permanent host, but after three months, she was replaced by **Dawn Zulueta**.

Unusual format

It became apparent that the show had an unusual hosting format, with a new signature personality for each new season.

This surprised some viewers who were used to the industry's usual practice of one host permanently establishing a program's dominant personality and point of view. But it delighted others, because it gave a fresh boost of energy to the program every few months or so.

Viewers also liked the fact that the first two hosts were socialites who weren't regularly seen on the TV screen. This gave the show a sense of "class" and exclusivity that few other programs had.

Welcome touch

This was further underscored when **Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski** took over hosting chores from Dawn. Unlike the first two hosts, however, Mikee was more informal and less consciously chic, a welcome touch that made the program's features more accessible to viewers who didn't belong to the top A-B sectors.

Things got even more down-to-earth when **Miriam Quiambao** became the program's fourth host. She was the first single girl to handle the show (but she got married at the end of her stint).

In addition, Miriam was a beauty queen, but she didn't come from the social set. This gave the program a new orientation that seemingly contradicted its original signature thrust.

This could be why Miriam's stint was not as well-realized as previous seasons. Miriam was so new to hosting a lifestyle show for women that it took quite a time before she looked comfortable and started to make the program her own.

Film star

Last Sunday, "All About You" welcomed its fifth host in the person of film star **Lorna Tolentino**. Once again, the show has adjusted its original orientation: Lorna is married, but she's the program's first host who's an active movie star (her last starrer was shown only last December). And, like Miriam, she isn't what you would call "society."

But, on her first episode last Feb. 15, Lorna showed that she could be a good host. She was chatty, natural and genuinely interested in her guests.

The episode's big surprise was the fact that four of those guests were in fact the program's previous hosts. Dawn was on phone patch and the other three were in the studio to welcome Lorna, and all five ladies had a good time retroactively bonding and trading tips on how to make the new host's stint on the show a happy and productive one.

Looking back, it's good to see that "All About You" has made some changes during its first year, to keep itself fresh and current. But heart and a sense of style are the program's unique totems, so they shouldn't be compromised in the name of added popularity, even its popular current host would agree.

Twin bill

TWO plays, Montano's "Parting at Calamba" and Guerrero's "Wanted: Chaperon," will be presented by

LORNA/ A31

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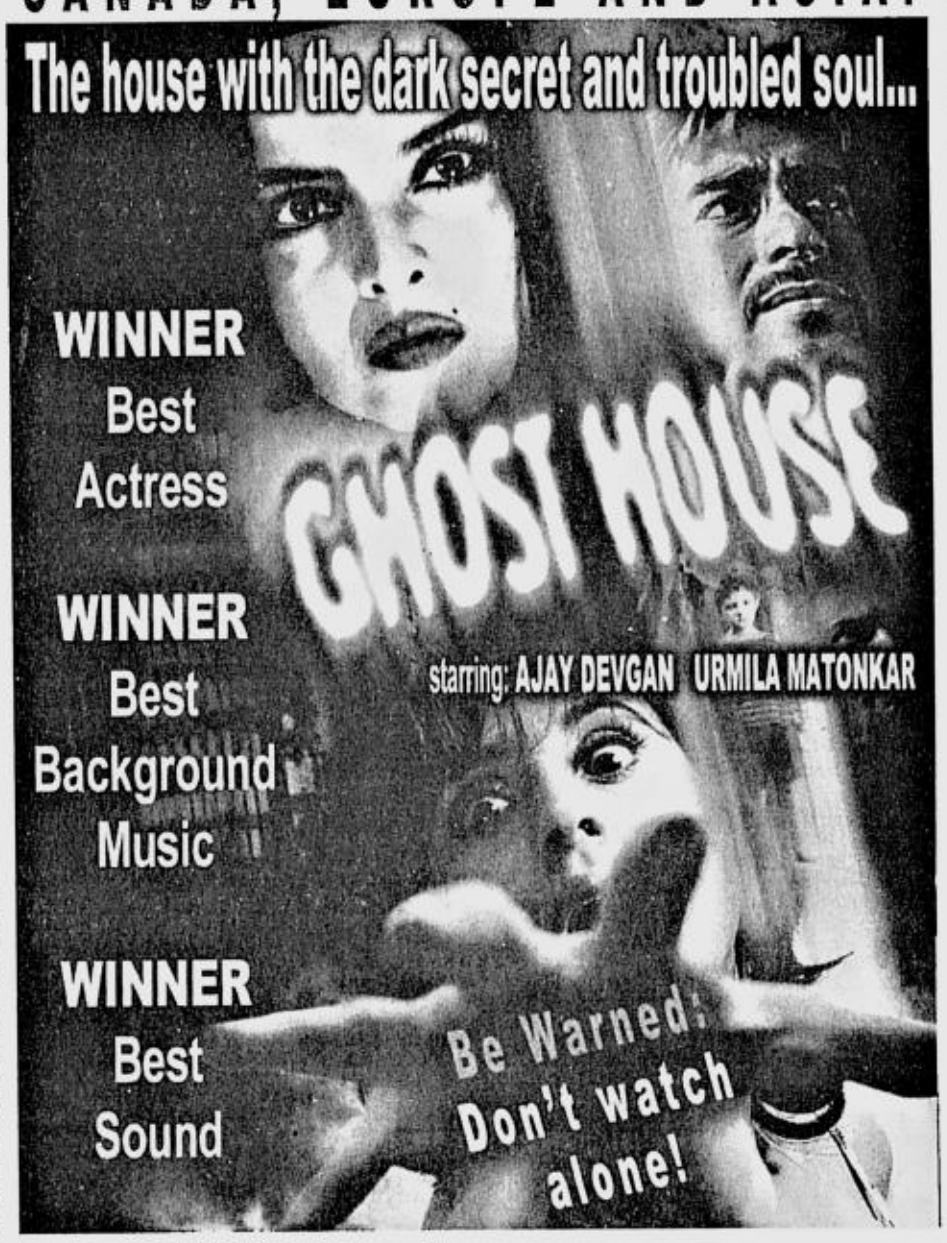

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what to watch
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THE HAUNTED MANSION
Realtor Jim Evers (Eddie Murphy) and his business partner-wife Sara get a call late one night from mansion owner Edward Gracey, who is looking to sell his property. Smelling the biggest deal of their career, Jim, Sara, and their two children pay a visit to the mansion, located on a remoted bayou. A torrential thunderstorm of mysterious origin strands the Evers family in the old mansion.
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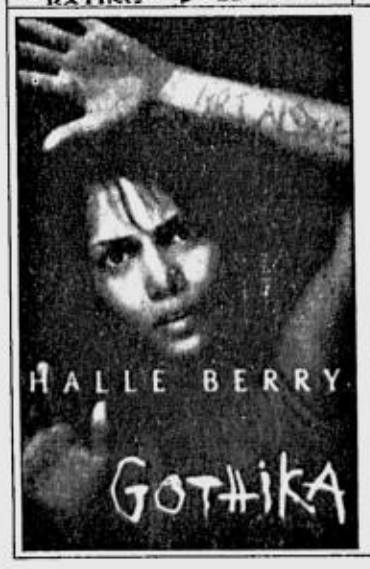
Jed Sta. Maria as Beast
AYALA CENTER
Feb. 20 - 5pm, 7pm
Feb. 21 - 11am, 3pm, 5pm, 7pm
Feb 22 - 11am, 3pm, 5pm
MAKATI TOWN
Feb 27 - 11am, 3pm, 6pm
Feb. 28 11am, 3pm, 6pm
Feb 29 - 11am, 3pm, 6pm
AYALA CENTER CEBU
Mar. 5 - 4pm, 7:30pm
Mar. 6 - 11am, 3pm, 5pm, 7pm
Mar. 7 - 11:30am, 3pm, 6:30pm

MTRCB RATING R-13 | Strictly for 13 years of age and up


Ghost story is "scary as hell"
Vengeful ghost in 'GOTHIKA'
"Because she is dead doesn't mean she's gone..."
Academy Award®-winner Halle Berry stars in Columbia Pictures' spine-chilling horror thriller as Dr. Miranda Grey, a criminal psychologist who awakens to find herself a patient in her own mental institution with no memory of the murder she's apparently committed. Haunted by a vengeful female ghost, Miranda must find out if she is being led farther from her sanity or closer to the truth. *GOTHIKA* also stars Robert Downey Jr. and Penelope Cruz.
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AYALA CINEMAS
Food Choices

More movies on pages B10 and 11

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Sunday BIZ

E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

COUPLES IN BUSINESS

For better, for worse; for richer, for poorer

By Myrna R. Co
Contributor, UP Institute for Small-Scale Industries

AS COUPLES search for more independence and economic stability, they quit stable but usually low-paying jobs to set up their own shops. Thus have they succeeded in creating something more meaningful, profitable and lasting for themselves and their families.

Initially, the cup they share may yield a bitter brew. It takes time for a new business to take off, break even and make money. Some couples try to start a business and fail, only to try, fail and try again. Others have to struggle for years to take their business beyond the hand-to-mouth stage even as they experience anxieties from a private relationship suddenly turned more shaky and edgy.

The business can, on the other hand, be a generous cup, running over with gifts for the couple and family. Having a business can be a hedge for an uncertain future, an entrepreneurial legacy and work culture that can be handed down to generations, a bonding activity that can enhance intimacy and strengthen the family.

We interviewed a number of couples in thriving small businesses to share their experiences in going into business together. They are: Aida and Chito Madrono of 13 PM Enterprises; Josefina and Renato Echavez of Natures Reflection Inc.; Maldwyn and Ruth de Pano of Design Plus; Joel and Farida Aguiluz of Trayline Inc.; Joey and Mayette Santiago of Migo's Fritters; and Fred and Carleen Reyes of Godiva Inc.

Question: What is the best thing about being in business with your spouse?

Aida Madroño: It's got to be working with someone you trust wholeheartedly. With trust and confidence, you're working as one, as a team.

Chito Madroño: Can you imagine consigning your whole financial concern to someone you do not trust? A couple in a business must have total commitment to business decisions and actions taken. You know you have good thing going if you enjoy doing it together. What's the business for, if you and your partner are not happy?

Josephine Echavez: The best thing about being in one business is the time we spend together which makes both of us grow in all aspects—including physical, mental, emotional and spiritual. We tend to understand each other better and come to appreciate the hard work that we, together, put into the business and simultaneously the family as well.

Maldwyn de Pano: Growing together. You have the opportunity to help each other, to learn from each other. What you learn from the outside you share with your partner. But first, you have to learn to respect each other as partners, co-equals. It took me time to do that.

Ruth de Pano: Being together 24 hours a day.

Joey Santiago: The best thing about being a couple in business is that you can see your wife all the time.

Joel Aguiluz: It's the blending of separate chemistries. I am more dispassionate; my wife Frances tends to be emotional. My weakness is her strength and vice versa. It's also nice to have your wife around to take care of your needs and to comfort you during business downturns.

FOR BETTER/B2

CEO spends costly time to help alleviate poverty

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

CEBU CITY—Manuel V. Pangilinan, chief executive of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., is reputed to earn so much in one month that an hour of his time is worth five figures.

If that were so, then his personal contribution to the Philippine Business for Social Progress runs to the million-peso mark as he spends a lot of his time working on PSBSP projects.

Pangilinan is now on his 4th year at the helm of the country's biggest corporate-led non-profit social development organization and he shows no signs of slowing down.

It is a wonder that he even has time to concentrate on work outside PLDT when he already has the reputation of being a workaholic, putting in long hours in PLDT and the other interests of the Hong Kong-based First Pacific group, and taking his staff with him.

In PBSP, he attends almost all of the meetings of the board, the executive committee and the regional offices. Plus meetings with potential partners and brainstorming sessions.

Reaching out

Pangilinan, however, tells the INQUIRER in an interview here that he carves time out of his hectic schedule for his work at PBSP because he believes in reaching out and helping the less fortunate. A kind of payback for all the blessings that he has received.

"I know it may sound corny, but really I do this because I take seriously the task of poverty alleviation and it is an immense task," Pangilinan says.

Being involved in projects to improve the quality of life of the Filipino poor, however, is not something new to Pangilinan.

PANGILINAN (right) with PBSP's Miguel Juan R. Del Gallego (left) talk to farmers of the Cebu Hillyland on their progress and experiences under the program.

During his college days at the Ateneo de Manila University, he used to spend two Saturdays a month to teach catechism at the mental hospital.

On the other two Saturdays, he did community work in Sapang Palay.

Bayanihan Foundation

When he was in Hong Kong, he was involved in the Bayanihan Foundation, which was involved in providing venues for interaction for overseas Filipino workers.

It was a successful project and he is happy to know that the Bayanihan Foundation continued its work to help uplift the lives of the thousands of OFWs working in Hong Kong.

Pangilinan says it is results like this that continue to inspire him to do more for others.

In his three years as PBSP chair, he has already seen a lot of effort bear fruit.

For the Visayas alone, PBSP has reached out to 7,700 public elementary and high school students in Leyte and Samar through the construction of school buildings and training for parent-teacher community associations.

Another 2,400 high school students in Naga National High School now have access to a new computer laboratory under the Cemex with a heart program.

PBSP's Area Resource Management programs are also making significant inroads in Cebu Hillyland, Olango, Samar, Negros and Bohol with farmers now enjoying higher income because of new technologies provided them.

Corporate volunteerism is alive in the Visayas due to PBSP's help.

More than 750 company executives and employees from six companies volunteered their time and energy to support the Adopt-A-Hectare project in the reforestation of the Cebu Hillyland and the planting of mangroves in Olango island.

PBSP is also involved in the Coalition for Better Education program, a multi-sectoral approach to improving the sorry state of the education system in the country.

First hand knowledge

Pangilinan knows these projects first-hand as he has been to many of the project sites -- wading through the waters of Olango Island or walking up the Cebu Hillyland project to see how the reforestation effort has changed the face of Cebu.

"I feel happy when I see people achieve something and I am looking forward to doing more. There is still a lot of work ahead of us," Pangilinan says.

He says he has a close affinity with projects that involve livelihood and job creation. Since he is with PLDT, he champions projects that involve the use of information technology.

Pangilinan says he feels that business has a crucial role to play in fighting poverty and he is happy to note that more companies are getting involved in PBSP's projects.

"Judging by the membership, there are more companies involved although the level of contribution has not really increased that much. We still need more," Pangilinan says.

He shares the belief of many of his colleagues that business has another purpose aside from making a profit, and that is to make life good for all.

Getting the youth to take charge of nature

By Corrie Salientes-Narisma

(Conclusion)

THE 2003 Bayer Young Environmental Envoy topnotcher and the youngest in the group, 18-year-old Reginald Andal believes that awareness is okay but it is not enough to make a difference when it concerns the environment.

Reggie, as he is fondly called by friends, strongly believes that people should, in whatever way, do something to contribute to the cause.

He says everyone should have a personal mission for the environment, which does not necessarily have to be too ambitious or complicated. It can be as simple as throwing the thrash to proper places or keeping one's immediate surroundings clean, just like how this future lawyer had started.

A BS Legal Management student of the De La Salle University in Lipa, Batangas, Reggie says his strong passion for the environment was built over the years that began in his family's backyard.

As a child, he was tasked by his mother to clean the backyard and tend the garden. With this virtue imbibed deeply into him, picking up the trash and telling friends to throw their trash in proper bins became a natural for the young Reggie.

Being a student leader, civic leader and anchor of a weekly youth–oriented radio program works well for Reggie and his environmental advocacy. He aims to make his fellow youth aware of the importance of having a clean surrounding.

Reggie has been involved in various meaningful environmental projects in school and in Batangas City, including the "Sagip Tingga Falls Movement" and the "Isang Puno, Isang Patpat, Isang Buhay ang Katapat."

REGINALD Andal

Reggie's sanctuary

For his immediate action plan, Reggie is putting up a sanctuary for endangered trees under what he calls "The Rare and Endangered Environmental Species" or TREES project.

"There used to be so many tree species in the country but we had taken them for granted and let them die in the most unnatural way. Now, there are but a few hardwoods left, particularly in our province," he adds.

The situation may be alarming but Reggie believes it is never too late to address the problem.

Through TREES, Reggie will establish a nursery that will serve as a mini forest and a major source of seedlings for reforestation projects in Batangas. The nursery will start with tree species that are native to Batangas including teak, molave, apitong, tangile and balayong but will later expand to include other species from all over the country.

He intends to get some of the species from the Makiling Forest Institute, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' Research Nursery, and Cagayan Valley Nurseries.

The sanctuary, he says, also aims to showcase an effective collaboration of the different sectors of the economy in pursuing projects that are concrete and beneficial to the environment.

Based on his timetable, Reggie, with the help of concerned institutions, is now doing a comprehensive study on what species will suit his project area, the soil and the weather pattern in Batangas.

According to the same timetable, the planting will be done from April this year to 2005 while the sanctuary will be fully established by October.

Representatives from all the institutions involved in the project—including the SK, DENR and the LGU—will compose the TREES core group that will ensure the sustainability of the sanctuary.

Waste segregation

Christopher Rhett Alger of the University of San Agustin in Iloilo City found interesting the various environmental activities of Bayer and its enormous waste management systems.

He said he was happy to see a simple yet systematic and efficient waste segregation, recycling and composting system that, he was convinced, was applicable to his community.

He was referring to the Leverkusen Municipal Waste Management Center that served as a junkyard for all the household wastes of the people in the area. People dump their trash in different huge bins where they are immediately processed for recycling or composting.

Rhett says he brought home the idea he got and was intending to propose such a system to the LGU in Iloilo City.

"We have a 'mini Mt. Payatas' here in Iloilo and this is the type of system we need," he says.

Twenty-year-old Rhett is a marketing student at the University of San Agustin in Iloilo City. A student leader and young entrepreneur, Rhett thinks "big" when it comes to Mother Nature.

Rhett's mountain

Even prior to his joining the BYEE program, Rhett was already involved in environmental activities.

One of these "big" undertakings is the "Adopt a Mountain" project in San Enrique, Iloilo, which Rhett initiated.

Mt. Bayuso was a victim of the *kaingin* farming system and logging. Its sad state prompted Rhett to make the first step to preserve and reforest what was left of the mountain.

The "Adopt a Mountain" project became one of the centennial projects of his university and the first in that community.

And now that this project is in place and is taking its own course, Rhett is ready to jump into another endeavor involving earthworm composting, his action plan under the BYEE program.

With this project, Rhett aims to hit two birds with one stone—help reduce the solid waste problem of his community and produce organic fertilizers in commercial scale, thus creating a source of livelihood for some people.

The project will also increase the awareness of the community on waste segregation, recycling and composting. This is where he can make use of what he learned from the Leverkusen Municipal Waste Management facility.

He will not need so much of funds to implement this project but Rhett said he would definitely need all the help he can get from members of the community, the YMCA and Eco-Populi Clubs in the area, the barangay officials and the Samahang Kabataan officers and members.

To raise the amount the project will be needing, Rhett had proposed the following simple and doable fund-generating activities: "Operation Limpyo Bahay" (cleaning of residential houses for a fee) and selling of recyclable materials such as bottles and newspapers. He is also counting on donations and sponsorships from concerned citizens and organizations.

Campaign

The 20-year-old environment steward, who is also into managing his family's fishpond, does not stop there. His participation in the BYEE program and the trip to Germany prompted him to inspire others into joining the Bayer program and to get involve in environmental projects.

"I am starting with student leaders. I encourage students to join the BYEE by helping them formulate environmental projects," he says.

He aims to make his colleagues and all the youth in his community get involved in environmental endeavors.

"I started this campaign a month after we arrived from Germany. *Mahirap* (it is hard) but I know I have to do it," he says.

The five 2003 Bayer envoys from the Philippines have different interests, lifestyles and surroundings but they immediately got along because of a common denominator—their concern for the environment.

CHRISTOPHER Rhett Alger

JOSE Antonio Romulo (country manager, visa international), Victor B. Valdepeñas (president and COO of UnionBank), Edwin Bautista (EVP, retail banking center UBP), Manuel Santiago, Jr. (FVP and business manager, UnionBank credit cards).

Linking a credit card with a game of golf

UNIONBANK introduced another credit card innovation with its Titanium Visa.

Manuel G. Santiago Jr., FVP and business manager of UnionBank credit cards, calls Titanium Visa, "the ultimate golf and lifestyle credit card for a few privileged men."

Through an agreement with Singapore-based Organization of Asia Amateur Golfers, Titanium Visa will provide cardholders with access to 88 of the most exclusive golf courses in Asia—in countries like the Philippines, Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand—at discounted visitors green card fees.

All tee-times are booked locally via a 24-hour PGA Assist hotline. The card is also accepted in over 16 million establishments worldwide.

UnionBank top executives came in full force, namely Victor Valdepeñas, president and COO; EVPs Edwin R. Bautista and Teddy M. Panganiban; FVPs Romy Kagalingan, Rafael Reyes, Danny Macalinao, Ramon Duarte and Martin Reyes; and VPs Ana Sison and Nikki Cachuela.

Joining the party were Anton Romulo and Mennie So from Visa International, Nicklaus D'Cruz from the Organization of Asian Amateur Golfers, Mike Cedo of Royal Northwoods Golf & Country Club, Junie ledesma of Sta. Elena Golf & Country Club, Simon Paguia of Golf Depot, Leah Navarro of Golf and More..., Maritess Pamintuan of Teletech Inc.

The big winner of the evening was Lito Quintana, Aboitiz One COO, who took home the grand door prize—a Taylor Made R580 Titanium Driver.

Valdepeñas shared that Titanium Visa is yet another example of UnionBank's continuing effort to "provide innovative products with meaningful benefits." Santiago added that Titanium Visa, is a "salute to the successful man of today's world."

UBPs VP Ana Sison, FVP Romy Kagalingan, EVP Edwin Bauitsta and FVP Ramon Duarte

LEAH Navarro of Golf and More..., Maritess Pamintuan of Teletech Inc.

For better, for worse; for richer, for poorer

From page B1

FRED and Carleen Reyes: "You can't, you don't separate business from family."

Carleen Reyes: You have a business partner you fully trust.

Fred Reyes: You complement each other's strengths and weaknesses.

Q: What is the worst thing about being a couple in business?

Fred and Carleen: Your disagreement on business decisions can lead to personal conflict.

Chito: When there is absence of trust and confidence and lack of total commitment. If you are halfhearted, it will not work. If you don't have confidence in your partner's capability, the business will not succeed.

Renato: In any business cycle, there is always the downtrend, which can be disastrous especially if the family is totally financially dependent on the business.

Joey: The arguments that can go on for days.

Maldwyn: Being caught in the money trap. We forgot, for a while, that money was only a tool, a means to an end. We kept blaming each other for a bungled decision. Nowadays, when we fail to seize a business opportunity, we take it in stride—there is more to come.

Q: What were the early kinks of doing business together and how did you unravel these?

Ruth de Pano: Early in our business, my husband was clearly the boss. He treated me as an employee, applied the same sanctions he meted to an erring subordinate, left me out on decision making. Luckily, before I reached the breaking point, Maldwyn took notice. We talked things over. It was a long, critical process. Yes, I am now an equal partner, but not before the relationship almost gave over.

Maldwyn: We're now on equal footing. There's no business matter so small that I don't consult my wife. Yes, after the "crisis," Ruth has become more productive and creative. I became more supportive of her. We reinvented ourselves. I believe Ruth has lately found capabilities in herself she never thought she had.

Joel: We used to get into very heated arguments. Like I needed money for operations and she, as financial manager, would keep a tight rein over the cash outflow. Our arguments would take days. Somehow, someone gives in. Sometimes it is I; sometimes Farida.

Farida Aguiluz: Then we decided we would go our separate ways. We put up a local sales outlet at Eastwood, Unna Moebel. We agreed I'd manage it while Joel stayed on top of export operations. It was a neat arrangement. The arguments abated.

Joey: When my wife makes a bad decision, I may not able to scold her as a company president should do, because if I do she will not talk to me when we get home. During a debate, she becomes so emotional that I would feel like a bad husband quarreling with a good wife. I just end the discussion so she won't feel bad anymore.

Q: How do you separate business from family concerns?

Maldwyn: You can't separate business from family. If the family is in trouble, the business is in trouble. It will not work. Business troubles have a way of creeping into other things, including family life.

Ruth: The family comes first. We work so hard in the business because of the family. If the family is well, all else falls into place, including the business.

Renato Echavez: There is a very thin line between the two. Couples must define the parameters of the business vis-à-vis family matters. For us, the parameters are: time (we honor Sunday as family day), finance (we have a fixed monthly salary, except during business slumps when we agree to defer our pay), and logistics (our house used to be our factory and office too. Now we have separate work premises—this has given us more privacy and time with the kids.)

Joey: We have a problem trying to separate family from business. The fight we began at home would be continued in the office, conversely what we started at work would be carried on at home. To be honest about it, being a couple in business is not such a good idea, unless you have very strong will power. I suppose a couple has to respect each other in order to resolve their differences.

Chito: We don't have to. Our business is our family's business. Everyone in the family must be concerned with it. On the other hand, family concerns must not be allowed to intrude into the business.

Joel: You can't separate family from business concerns. We just learn to compromise, respect each other both at home and in the workplace.

Fred and Carleen: You can't. You don't. A family business becomes intertwined with family life.

The real-life stories of these couples in business will not have fairytale endings. What appears certain is that they're in business together for better or worse, for richer or poorer.

(The UP Institute for Small-Scale Industries, with the Small Enterprises Research and Development Foundation, is about to begin a book writing project on couples in business. Please e-mail comments to info.issi@up.edu.ph.)

Story of a generation of men into cosmetics

WHO would have thought that the people behind a popular cosmetics brand in the country are men? And they are out to make a statement in the cosmetic industry.

Ever Bilena was established in late 1983 by Dioceldo S. Sy, a Chinese mestizo entrepreneur. Eventually, he was joined by his younger brother, Silliman, who is currently in charge of product development.

After two decades, the brothers, now in their mid '40s, are still making waves in an industry dominated by and targeted to females.

When asked why the interest in the cosmetic business, Silliman claims that it is in the blood.

His late grandfather, Pedro Sy, owned a manufacturing company called Le-conte Pomade in the late '50s until the early '60s. Silliman fondly remembers how, as tots, they used to run around their granddad's factory.

During the late '60s to mid '70s, his uncle founded Heidi Cosmetics, where Silliman worked in the warehouse, while brother Dioceldo did the sales and marketing.

Due to the bad economy and political instability (Martial Law was declared during this period), his uncle's company closed and the Sy brothers took on different jobs. Dioceldo went into a buy and sell business and Silliman, an accountant by profession, worked for SGV.

But for them who grew up in a cosmetic business, Silliman and Dioceldo seemed to gravitate towards the industry. It was by some fate that Dioceldo met their foreign principal, Adam Chang, in 1983.

Silliman looks back with great pride and joy as he recalls their first factory—an old narra house in Sta. Cruz, Manila. They practically lived in the house and dedicated themselves to the company. They dreamt of making it big.

They believe that the dream has now become a reality.

It was not an overnight success for them. The two started with its first line of products (the nail polish), a handful of employees and

SILLIMAN (standing) and Dioceldo

and five outlets.

The growth in sales, product lines, branches, and people, they say, can be attributed to their business paradigm—good quality, value for money, excellent customer service and innovative products. Plus, a positive attitude in accepting technological advancements, managerial enhancements, new marketing strategies and product expansion.

Being family owned, Silliman admits that the company used to make decisions based on gut-feel. But the brothers assure that Ever Bilena Cosmetics will, slowly but surely, take the challenge of implementing reforms in terms of internal and external operations, product lineup and packaging.

They plan to come up with a hypoallergenic line. Also, Silliman beams with excitement as he mentions the plan of extending franchise opportunities to interested entrepreneurs in a couple of years. They also want to tap into the male market for their products.

Ever Bilena is Taiwanese word which means "forever beautiful lady."

Ever Bilena Products are available at leading department stores nationwide. For further inquiries, you may reach them at telephone numbers 983-3375 to 79.

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"I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."
John 14:6

26th DEATH ANNIVERSARY

ROBERTO S. OCA, SR.

11:00 a.m. Mass
will be held at the
AWU COMPOUND,
ROBERTO S. OCA STREET,
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Our Dearest Mama

ROSARIO "Charing" V. TANSECO

November 30, 1920 – February 20, 2004
Peacefully joined our Lord
in the fullness of her faith at the age of 83.

Her husband, **Titing** and her children, **Thelma, Toti, Tito, Fely, Narcy, Lito, Bing, Malie, Tony, Johnny, Charry** and **Romy**, sons and daughters-in-law, brother, **Salito** and sister, **Penny**, and her grandchildren and great grandchildren request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Our Lady of Consolation Parish, Mira-Nila Homes/Tierra Pura Homes, Tandang Sora, Quezon City.

Funeral Mass will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 28, 2004. Cremation services will follow.

The Missionary Sisters
Servants of the Holy Spirit
Announces the death of

SISTER ISABEL ESPIRITU, S.Sp.S.

on February 20, 2004 at the age of 79
at the Convent of the Holy Spirit, Quezon City.

Mass of the Resurrection will be offered on
Monday, February 23, 2004 at 9:00 A.M.

At the Convent of the Holy Spirit
8 Poinsettia Road, Quezon City.

Interment will follow
at the Christ the King Cemetery
E. Rodriguez Ave., Quezon City.

ROLANDO MADLANSACAY BAGON

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on February 20, 2004 at the age of 72.

His bereaved wife **ETHEL LUANSING BAGON**; children **MALOU & RENE, CLAUDIA**; grandchildren **KEVIN, KEITH, KENNETH, YAYA PIRENG**; brothers & sisters, nephews & nieces, other relatives and friends request the readers to join them in praying for his eternal happiness in heaven.

His body lies in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapels, 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on February 25, 2004 at the Eternal Gardens, Batangas City after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at Basilica of Immaculate Concepcion.

CECILIA G. NAVERA

Peacefully joined her Creator
on February 13, 2004 at the age of 85.

Her bereaved family requests the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Navera's Residence in 149 Gen. Malvar Avenue, Sto. Tomas, Batangas.

Interment will be on Tuesday, 24 February 2004 at the Familia Navera Mausoleum in St. Thomas Memorial Garden after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at St. Thomas Parish Church, Sto. Tomas, Batangas.

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Our dearly beloved
MOMMY

Ma. Teresa Vallejo Estrella

Peacefully joined our Lord
on February 21, 2004 at the age of 62.

Her loving children **Belinda, Christine, Dean Jose** and **Jose Enrique III**; grandchildren **Michelle Nicole** and **Bernard Angeliko**; great grandchild **Jean Marc Martin**; parents **Benjamin F. Estrella** (†), and **Felicidad V. Estrella**; brothers **Tony, Edmund** and wife **Geri, Buick** and wife **Kandi** and sister **Sabrina** and husband **Waling**; and other relatives request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Sta. Rita de Cascia Parish Church, Philam Life Homes, Quezon City.

Cremation will be on Wednesday, February 25, 2004 at the La Funeraria Paz Crematory, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Lenaida Gimeno Siquijor

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on February 18, 2004 at the age of 65.

Her bereaved husband **Rodolfo Sr.**; children **Bong & Gie, Jojo & Monet, Gigi**; grandchildren **Mica, Butchoy, Paulynne, Michel, Boknoy** and **Day-day**; brother and sisters, request the readers to join them in praying for her eternal happiness in heaven.

Her body lies in state at 44 J. Basa St., Brgy. Pedro Cruz, San Juan, Metro Manila.

Interment will be on February 24, 2004 at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City, after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the St. John the Baptist Parish Church, Pinaglabanan, San Juan, Metro Manila.

CLASSIFIEDS

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
Third Elementary Education Project
Bids and Awards Committee

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

ESM-22-005-004

February 22, 2004

To All Qualified Bidders:

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) towards the cost of financing the Third Elementary Education Project (TEEP) and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments for civil works component of the project. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines for Procurement under JBIC Loans (Nov. 1997).

2. The Division Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites sealed bids from eligible bidders of at least Medium A for **Package A-01-Construction of Two (2) Storey – Six (6) Classrooms School Building at Can-avid Central Elementary School at Municipality of Can-avid.**

3. Bidding documents may be purchased at DepEd Division Office of Eastern Samar with address at San Fernando St., Borongan, Eastern Samar from February 22 – March 25, 2004 for a nonrefundable fee of Two Thousand Five Hundred Pesos Only (Php2,500.00) for each set. Pre-bid conference will be on March 11, 2004, 9.00 AM at DepEd Division Office of Eastern Samar. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.

4. Bids shall be valid for a period of ninety (90) days after Bid opening and must be accompanied by a security in the amount of 2.5% of total bid price, and shall be delivered to Division's Bids and Awards Committee, Department of Education – Division Office of Eastern Samar, San Fernando St., Borongan, Eastern Samar on or before **March 26, 2004, 10:00 AM** at which time they will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.

(Sgd.) NIÑA J. VILLALON, Ph.D., CESO VI
Chairperson
Division Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–February 22, 2004)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

MERCEDITAS MATIAS PASIBE

The person appearing above has a pending warrant of arrest issued by the Regional Trial Court Branch 7, Legaspi City docketed as Criminal Case No. 10251 entitled "People vs. Alicia Chan Rantael and Mercedita Matias Pasibe" for qualified theft.

If you have any information regarding accused's whereabouts, please call QUISUMBING IGNACIO GUIA & LAMBINO LAW OFFICES at Tel. No. (632) 9299151.

(PDI - Feb. 22, 2004)

Office of the President

BCDA

Bases Conversion Development Authority

BASES CONVERSION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
INVITATION FOR PROPOSALS
ASSET DISPOSITION PROGRAM-PHASE 2

The Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) is inviting interested proponents to participate in Phase 2 of BCDA's Asset Disposition Program (ADP Phase 2). ADP Phase 2 involves the development and privatization of the Bonifacio South – Lot 3 with an approximate area of 3,268 square meters.

Interested proponents may submit their Letters of Interest to BCDA and can purchase the Terms of Reference (TOR) for ADP Phase 2 that outlines, among others, the requirements for proponents interested to participate in the privatization.

The TOR for ADP Phase 2 will be ready for distribution to interested proponents starting on 23 February 2004 at the BCDA offices. A non-refundable cost of the TOR is Php 10,000.00 for each TOR, payable to the BCDA in Cash or Manager's Check.

A Conference among interested proponents is tentatively set on 01 March 2004. The objective of the conference is to discuss the property that forms part of ADP Phase 2, the TOR and other classifications from interested proponents. Interested proponents will be informed of the final schedule and venue of the conference through contact numbers submitted to the BCDA.

Interested proponents can direct their inquiries to:

THE CHAIRMAN
ADP Phase 2 Committee (ADPCom-2)
BCDA Corporate Center
Gozar cor. Lucas Streets, Villamor Air Base
Pasay City

or they can contact Ms. Aileen An R. Zosa or Ms. Bambie L. Andal at telephone numbers 510-0420 or 510-0411 or at arzosa@bcda.gov.ph or blandal@bcda.gov.ph.

(Sgd.) RUFO COLAYCO
President & CEO

(PDI – Feb. 18, 22 & 25, 2004)

NOTICE OF LOSS

The public is hereby informed of the loss of Prudential Guarantee and Assurance, Inc. Official Receipts and Collector's Provisional Receipts assigned to its Alabang Extension office. The complete list is as follows:

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02201 - 02250 (50 sets) - Alabang Extension Office Series

MISSING COLLECTOR'S PROVISIONAL RECEIPTS (CPR):
311201 - 311250 (50 sets)
343601 - 343650 (50 sets)

All transactions using aforementioned receipts shall not be recognized as legal and binding with Prudential Guarantee and Assurance, Inc.

(PDI–Feb. 22, 2004)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

ALICIA CHAN RANTAEL

The person appearing above has two (2) pending warrants of arrest issued by the following judicial courts:

(a) Regional Trial Court - Branch 7, Legazpi City docketed as Crim Case No. 10251 entitled "People vs. Alicia Chan Rantael and Mercedita Matias Pasibe" for qualified theft; and

(b) Regional Trial Court - Branch 2, Legazpi City docketed as Crim Case No. 10252 entitled "People vs. Alicia Chan Rantael and Rica Mallari Matamorosa" for qualified theft.

If you have any information regarding accused's whereabouts, please call QUISUMBING IGNACIO GUIA & LAMBINO LAW OFFICES at Tel. No. (632) 9299151.

(PDI - Feb. 22, 2004)

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ABS-CBN

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

CARMEN CEPEDA BALAO

January 9, 1910 - February 2, 2004

wish to convey our sincerest gratitude and appreciation to our relatives, friends - far and near - and all those who sent flowers, mass cards, letters of sympathy, spent precious time with us, attended the funeral rites, and helped and comforted us in so many ways during our time of bereavement.

Our Dearly Beloved

DR. EDUARDO HOMBRADO ESMILLA

of Nagcarlan, Laguna and Lucena City

Peacefully joined his Creator on February 20, 2004 at the age of 80.

His loving wife Milagros; children Edwin & Alice, Bernadette & Ademar; grandchildren Ciela & Jonathan, Edward, Frances, Patricia, Miguel, Rafael and Abel; great grandchild Johann, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at #28 Edaño St., Lucena City.

Interment will be on February 24 at the Marquez Compound, Old Cemetery, Lucena City after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at the St. Ferdinand Cathedral, Lucena City.

In lieu of flowers, donation to the Hermitage of Mt. Carmel, Talim, Lucena City will be greatly appreciated.

MESSAGE OF THANKS

We, the family of the late

VALERIANO B. FUGOSO, JR.

(September 25, 1920 - January 14, 2004)

and

MA. CRISTINA FUGOSO-DAYRIT

(April 23, 1953 - January 15, 2004)

would like to express our gratitude to all those who touched our lives during our moment of bereavement. Thank you for spending time with us, for praying with and for us, for sharing your blessings with us. As we give our loved ones back to the Lord who is the source of all Life, we reassure you of our own prayers that God's providence and kindness be with you as you journey here on earth.

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8C	1 BR	81.50	6,000,000.00
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8E	1 BR	72.40	5,100,000.00
8F	1 BR	82.60	6,100,000.00
9A	1 BR	82.60	6,100,000.00
9B	1 BR	72.40	5,300,000.00
11F	1 BR	82.60	6,100,000.00
12B	1 BR	72.40	5,300,000.00
12E	1 BR	72.40	5,300,000.00
12F	1 BR	82.60	6,100,000.00
15A	1 BR	82.60	6,100,000.00
15E	1 BR	72.40	5,300,000.00
15F	1 BR	82.60	6,100,000.00
16A	1 BR	82.60	6,100,000.00
16B	1 BR	72.40	5,300,000.00
16E	1 BR	72.40	5,300,000.00
16F	1 BR	82.60	6,100,000.00
17A	1 BR	82.60	6,100,000.00
17F	1 BR	82.60	6,100,000.00
21D	2BR	131.10	10,100,000.00
22A	2BR	132.00	10,200,000.00
22D	2BR	131.10	10,100,000.00
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B3	3	12.00	630,000.00
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B3	10	12.00	630,000.00
B3	11	12.00	630,000.00
B3	12	12.00	630,000.00
B3	13	12.00	630,000.00
B3	14	12.00	630,000.00
B3	15	12.00	630,000.00
B3	16	12.00	630,000.00
B3	17	12.00	630,000.00
B3	18	12.00	630,000.00
P6	5	12.00	630,000.00
P6	6	12.00	630,000.00
P6	7	12.00	630,000.00
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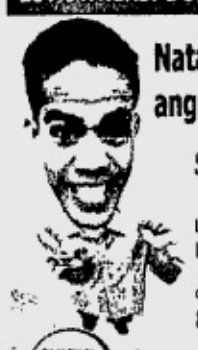

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The Board of Directors of **OMS Phils. Corporation** give notice of the resignation of **Mr. Luis F. Abiera** from the Board of Directors and the appointment of **Mrs. Leticia F. Abiera** as its new member effective January 8, 2004.

Notice is given that Phil. Aerospace Dev't. Corp. (PADC) BOI Cert. of Registration (CR) No. 82-230 DTD. Jan. 28, 1982 was lost.

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THE MANAGEMENT
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(PDI – Feb. 22, 2004)

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Republic of the Philippines
Province of Camarines Norte
MUNICIPALITY OF PARACALE

February 15, 2004

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Municipal Government of Paracale, Camarines Norte invites interested and legitimate contractors to apply for eligibility and submit sealed bids for the CONSTRUCTION OF MALAGUIT-LABNIG BRIDGE (4.0 x 250.0 linear meters) located at barangays Labnig-Malaguit, Paracale, Camarines Norte.

1. The approved budget cost (ABC) for the contract to be bid is **Php10.000 million** from loan obtained from Naga Lending Center-Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP).
2. Application for Eligibility is open to contractors with PCAB license and registration for CATEGORY-Medium A.
3. The scope of work for the project includes the supply of materials, labor, tools and equipment for Test Pile, Concrete Piles Detour/ Causeway, Demountable office & Camp and Elastomeric Bearing Pad.
4. Eligibility forms/documents are available for issuance starting February 18, 2004 at the Municipal Treasury Office upon payment of non-refundable fee of Php200.00
5. Deadline for submission and receipts of eligibility documents & LOI (Letter of Intent) is on March 9, 2004 at the BAC office, Municipal Building Annex, 1:00 p.m.
6. Eligibility checks & opening of Application for Eligibility is on March 9, 2004, SB Session Hall at 1:30 p.m.
7. Bidding documents shall be issued only to eligible bidder(s) upon payment of non-refundable fee of Php2,000.00 starting March 9, 2004.
8. Pre-bid conference is set on March 10, 2004, SB Session Hall, 2:00 p.m.
9. Deadline for submission of bidding documents to BAC & opening of Bids is on March 22, 2004 at SB Session Hall – 1:30 p.m
10. All applicable provision under the IRR of RA 9184 shall govern in all stages of the bidding procedures.

LGU-Paracale reserves the right to reject any or all Bids, waive any defect contained therein and accept an offer most advantageous to the LGU.

(Sgd.) **RUBEN L. MENDIOLA**
Chairman
BIDS AND AWARD COMMITTEE
Dale

(PDI–February 15 & 22, 2004)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION ON GOOD GOVERNMENT
Region 8, Tacloban

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG), Region 8, invites interested parties to participate in the sealed bidding for the lease of the ground floor of the People's Center and Library located at Real St., Tacloban City as venue for "SUMMER BAZAAR" trade exhibit from May 01, 2004 to July 01, 2004.

The bidding guidelines will be available at PCGG Office, Asset Management Department, 3rd Floor, IRC Building, 82 EDSA Mandaluyong City and at the PCGG Regional Office, Nipa Hut, Jones St., Tacloban City, starting February 23, 2004. For inquiries, please contact Mr. Alfredo dela Paz at Telephone Nos. 726-0034 and 725-6958 and Mr. Renor O. Dauag at Telephone No. (053) 321-3413.

Pre-qualification requirements should be submitted on or before March 15, 2004, while bids will be received, opened and tabulated at 10:00 A.M. on March 22, 2004 in the presence of the bidders at the PCGG Office, Asset Management Department, 3rd Floor, IRC Building, 82 EDSA, Mandaluyong City.

(Sgd.) **RENOR O. DAUAG**
Officer-in-Charge
PCGG, Region 8
Tacloban City

(PDI – Feb. 22, 23 & 24, 2004)

TransCo

National Transmission Corporation
South Luzon Operations and Maintenance

INVITATION FOR REGISTRATION OF MANUFACTURERS, DISTRIBUTORS, SUPPLIERS AND CONTRACTORS

The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) of National Transmission Corporation, South Luzon Operations and Maintenance (NTC-SLOM) shall conduct a General Registration of Manufacturers, Contractors and Suppliers who wish to participate in public biddings of Goods, Supplies, Materials, Civil Works, Infrastructure Projects as well as Other Related Services (including Janitorial and Security Services) requirements.

Contractors for Infrastructure Projects shall have PCAB License and IAC classification not limited to the following:

I. General Engineering – Roads, Flood Control and Drainage, Water Supply;
II. General Building – Building and Industrial Plant;
III. Specialties – Plumbing and Sanitary Work, Electrical Work, Mechanical Work, Air-conditioning and Refrigeration, Painting Works, etc.

Applicants shall submit the following basic requirements (Class "A" documents), which should be maintained current and updated at least once a year or more and must be renewed at least one (1) month or even earlier before its expiration:

a. Letter of Application for Registration indicating its e-mail address;
b. Copy of DTI Business Name registration or SEC registration certificate including Articles of Incorporation, whichever maybe appropriate under the existing laws of the Philippines;
c. Copy of Valid and current Mayor's permit/municipal license;
d. Copy of Taxpayer's Identification Number;
e. Copy of Valid VAT Registration Certificate;
f. Copy of Financial Statements (including Auditor's Report) duly stamped "Received" by the BIR for the last two (2) years;
g. Copy of Valid PCAB License and IAC Registration (for Infra);
h. Statement of the prospective bidders, under oath, that it is not "blacklisted" or barred from bidding by the government or any of its agencies, offices, corporations or LGUs, including, in the case of procurement of infrastructure projects, non-inclusion in the "blacklist" of contractors issued by the Construction Industry Authority of the Philippines (CIAP).

The BAC shall issue a Certificate of Official Registration after it has verified proper submission of all registration requirements and shall maintain the Registry of Suppliers and Contractors. This certification shall be attached to Application for Eligibility Screening in lieu of the "Class A" Documents whenever suppliers, contractors participate in eligibility screening and biddings. However, for infrastructure projects/civil works, such certificate shall not guarantee that said contractor may be allowed to participate in a public bidding without first being determined to be eligible for that particular bidding.

Application for Registration shall be accepted at the Administration Division Office thru Mr. Rene D. Ramas, Division Manager and Head, BAC Secretariat, National Transmission Corporation, South Luzon Operations and Maintenance, San Vicente Binan, Laguna.

The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)
(Sgd.) GILDO R. LISTANO
Dept. Manager, PSMD-North and
Chairman, BAC

(PDI – February 22, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
Third Elementary Education Project
Bids and Awards Committee

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

February 22, 2004

To All Qualified Bidders:

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) towards the cost of financing the Third Elementary Education Project (TEEP) and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments for civil works component of the project. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines for Procurement under JBIC Loans (Nov 1987).

2. The Division Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites sealed bids from eligible bidders of at least Small Sub-category B.

Package 1 – Repair/Rehabilitation of Two (2) Units – Six (6) Classrooms School Building at Maybocog Elementary School and Omawas Elementary School at Municipality of Maydolong

Package 2 – Construction of One (1) Unit – One (1) Classroom School Building at Quirino Primary School and Repair/Rehabilitation of One (1) Unit – One (1) Classroom School Building at Municipality of Gen. MacArthur

Package 3 – Repair/Rehabilitation of Two (2) Units – Six (6) Classrooms School Building at Gigoso Elementary School and Paya Elementary School at Municipality of Giporlos

Package 4 – Repair/Rehabilitation of Two (2) Units – Six (6) Classrooms School Building at Casurog Elementary School and San Isidro Elementary School at Municipality of San Julian

Package 5 – Repair/Rehabilitation of One (1) Unit – Five (5) Classrooms School Building at Santo Thomas Elementary School at Municipality of Sulat

Package 6 – Repair/Rehabilitation of Three (3) Units – Nine (9) Classrooms School Building at Malinao Elementary School, Nato Elementary School and San Luis Elementary School at Municipality of San Policarpio

Package 7 – Repair/Rehabilitation of Three (3) Units – Eleven Classrooms School Building at Arteche Central Elementary School and Bari Elementary School and Construction of One (1) Unit – One (1) Classroom School Building at Buenavista Elementary School at Municipality of Arteche

3. Bidding documents may be purchased at DepEd Division Office of Eastern Samar with address at San Fernando St., Borongan, Eastern Samar from February 22 – March 25, 2004 for a nonrefundable fee of One Thousand Pesos Only (Php1,000.00) for each set. Pre-bid conference will be on **March 11, 2004, 9:00 AM** at DepEd Division Office of Eastern Samar. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.

4. Bids shall be valid for a period of ninety (90) days after Bid opening and must be accompanied by a security in the amount of 2.5% of total bid price, and shall be delivered to Division's Bids and Awards Committee, Department of Education – Division Office of Eastern Samar, San Fernando St., Borongan, Eastern Samar on or before **March 25, 2004, 10:00 AM** for **Packages 1,2,3 and 4** and **March 26, 2004, 2:00 PM** for **Packages 5,6 and 7** at which time they will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.

(Sgd.) **NIÑA J. VILLALON, Ph.D., CESO VI**
Chairperson
Division Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–February 22, 2004)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS
NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
BIR Road, East Triangle, Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION (NTC)** is inviting interested and legitimate suppliers to apply for eligibility and to submit bid proposals for the supply, installation and test running of hardware and software for the **Records Management System** of the Commission. The approved budget for this contract is **P10,027,000.00**.

Registration requirements could be secured from **Ms. Sophia Lynn B. Lumantod**, Head NTC BAC Secretariat, NTC Bldg., BIR Road, East Avenue, Quezon City, beginning **16 February 2004** to be submitted not later than **1 March 2004, 5:00 p.m.**, through the BAC Secretariat.

Notification of registered suppliers and issuance of bid documents to registered suppliers shall be from **March 4 to 5, 2004** upon payment of non-refundable fee of One (1) Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00).

Pre-bid Conference will be on **March 8, 2004 at 2:00 p.m.** at NTC Office, NTC Bldg., BIR Road, East Avenue, Quezon City.

Deadline for submission and opening of the bids will be on **March 22, 2004 at 2:00 p.m. and 22 March 2004 at 2:15 p.m.**, respectively. Bidders shall submit **five (5) separate sealed envelopes**; **one (1)** envelope containing the **eligibility requirements**; **two (2)** envelopes containing **the technical component** of the bid, one (1) envelope duly marked as Original and the other as a Copy, and **two (2)** envelopes containing the **financial component** of the bid, one (1) envelope duly marked as Original and the other as a Copy. All communications must be addressed to the undersigned in the above-specified address.

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution in accordance with **"Republic Act 9184" and its Implementing Rules and Regulations**.

The NTC reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive any defect or informality of the bid proposals received and to accept and award the bid to the bidder whose proposal is considered most advantageous to the Government. The NTC assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify any bidder for expenses or loss that it may incur in the preparation/process of the bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **EDGARDO V. CABARIOS**
Chairman, BAC

(PDI - Feb. 15 & 22, 2004)

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
Third Elementary Education Project
Division of Kalinga

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

IFB No. KAL-002SBP-2004

February 22, 2004

To All Qualified Bidders:

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), towards the cost of financing the Third Elementary Education Project (TEEP) and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments for civil works component of the project. Bidding is open to all bidders classified by IAC and PCAB as at least Small B for General Building and from eligible source countries as defined in the *Guidelines: Procurement under JBIC Loans (Nov 1987)*.

2. The Division Bids and Awards Committee (DBAC) invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the following proposed Bid Packages:

Package No. KAL-07-SONA-05-2004	Construction of One Unit - Two (2) Classrooms Mono Grade Type TEEP School Building @ Dalnacan Primary School, Cudal, Southern Tabuk District, Kalinga.
Package No. KAL-10-SONA-06-2004	Construction of One Unit - One (1) Classroom Multigrade Type TEEP School Building @ Addang Primary School, Balawag, Western Tabuk District, Kalinga.
Package No. KAL-10-SONA-07-2004	Construction of One Unit - One (1) Classroom Multigrade Type TEEP School Building @ Pao Primary School, Nambucayan, Western Tabuk District, Kalinga.
Package No. KAL-10-SONA-08-2004	Construction of One Unit - One (1) Classroom Multigrade Type TEEP School Building @ Gawidan Primary School, Bagumbayan, Western Tabuk District, Kalinga.

3. Bidding documents may be purchased at TEEP DPISU Office with address at DepEd Division Office of Kalinga, Bulanao, Tabuk, Kalinga for a nonrefundable fee of One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (Php 1,500.00) for each set. A pre-bidding conference will be held at the same address on **March 5, 2004** at 9:00 a.m. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.

4. Bids shall be valid for a period of One Hundred Eighteen Days (118) days after Bid opening and must be accompanied by a security in the amount of 2.5% of total bid price, and shall be delivered to Division's Bids and Awards Committee, TEEP DPISU Office, Department of Education - Division Office of Kalinga, Bulanao, Tabuk, Kalinga on or before 2:00 p.m. of **March 23, 2004**, at which time they will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.

(Sgd.) **ALFREDO D. BUDADEN**
Chairperson
Division Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Feb. 22, 2004)

PHILIPPINE HEART CENTER
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  - Academic Year 2004 starts on April 1, 2004

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- PCP Diplomate
  - Deadline for submission of application is on May 24, 2004
  - Academic Year 2004 starts on July 1, 2004

III. Fellowship in Anesthesiology
- 3 years Residency in General Anesthesia accredited by PBA (Board eligible)

IV. 1 Year Subspecialty Fellowship in:
- Cardiac Rehabilitation
- Electrophysiology
  - Deadline for submission of application is on March 5, 2004
  - Academic Year 2004 starts on April 1, 2004

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7. Specialty Board Certificate in required specialty

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Assistant Director
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East Avenue, Quezon City

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Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of the Secretary
Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION FOR CONSULTANCY SERVICES

The Department of Agriculture has received a project preparation grant from the World Bank/Policy and Human Resource Development (PHRD) Grant Facility, and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this grant to payment under the contract for the preparation of the Mindanao Rural Development Project - Phase II (MRDP-APL2).

The Department invites eligible consulting firms to indicate their interest in providing services for the preparation of the MRDP-APL2. The said project is a poverty reduction program which projects aims to improve incomes, food security, access to livelihood opportunities and agricultural and fisheries service delivery in the targeted rural communities and local government units (LGUs) in Mindanao. The high priority given to the development of this program in Mindanao is due to the persistent poverty in the area particularly for the farmers and fisherfolks. Thus, there is a need to accelerate rural development, agricultural productivity and competitiveness through raising farmers and fisherfolks income, generating employment and achieving greater sufficency and stable prices in basic commodities.

The Department would need about 15 specialists in the following areas, but not limited to Project Development and Preparation, Development Economics, Rural Infrastructure, Social Participation and Community Development, Monitoring and Evaluation, Microenterprise Development, Coastal/Marine Biodiversity Conservation, Economic and Financial Analysis, Environmental Assessment, LGU Financing and Institutions and Decentralization, etc.

The consulting firm will provide technical assistance in terms of detailed project preparation work on aspects related to: (1) Institutional assessment and fleshing out of capacity building initiatives and interventions; (2) Development of local infrastructure and other community-driven investment priorities; (3) Social and environmental assessment and formulation of appropriate safeguard measures in the targeted areas in Mindanao; and (4) of assisting the DA in completing the internal and external GOP project preparation processes. The estimated cost of the consultancy services is US$ 685,000 and will commence on June 2004.

Interested consulting firms must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform these services (brochures, description of similar and recent assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc.). Consulting firms may associate to enhance their qualifications.

Interested firms may obtain further information and send expressions of interest at the address below:

Pre-qualification Evaluation and Awards Committee (PEAC)
Secretariat
Room 107 - Administrative Service, Department of Agriculture
Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City
Fax No. 632-8277152
E-mail Address: **da_peac2004@yahoo.com**
Deadline of submission is on **01 March 2004 at 5:00 p.m.**

Pre-qualification Evaluation and Awards
Committee
For the Chairperson

By: (Sgd.) **JULITO M. BRIOLA**
Member

(PDI - Feb. 22, 2004)

DISPOSAL SALE

USAID/Manila will conduct a Sealed Bid Sale of used residential and office furniture/equipment, appliances, Sharp reproduction machines, and various electronic equipment including computers, on an **"AS IS-WHERE IS"** basis.

All items can be inspected on February 23 - 25, 2004 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. and in the morning of February 26, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Location: **Warehouse, 2345 Aurora Blvd., (formerly Tramo St.) Pasay City.** Bid forms are available at the site. Submission of bids and cash deposits (20% of the total bid) are done at the site during the sale. Full payment and bid deposit refunds will be on March 1, 2004 at 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

For further information, please call Mr. Romy Arquisola or Mr. Allan Daluz at Tel. Nos. 852-9684, 514-4229, 514-4234 and 514-4236.

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Editor Aries Espinosa

Diethelm Phils Inc conducts 2nd national conference

DIETHELM Philippines Inc (DPI), one of the leading distributors of pharmaceutical and consumer healthcare products in the Philippines, has just concluded its three day national conference entitled Nascon 2004: Ready and Reloaded, at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Makati City last Feb. 5 to 7. DPI is the local unit of DKSH, which is headquartered in Zurich, Switzerland. DKSH is the number 1 marketing and service group in Asia, measured by sales and number of employees.

The corporate event highlighted the company's achievements for 2003, which included the completion of the state-of-the-art distribution center in Mamplasan Laguna, the implementation of SAP, and the installation of the Electronic Customer Management System called Echo Plus.

DPI employees were also given awards for their exceptional achievements in 2003. The top sales achievers and service awardees were given trophies and cash prizes in the gala event, "The Night of Champions", also held in Mandarin Oriental Hotel.

Diethelm's top management used the venue to present the 2004 plans and programs to all 849 employees as well as to the company's existing principals and partners. Juergen Hirschberg, DPI President and GM, thanked and congratulated the whole DPI team for their efforts and accomplishments in 2003 and he added that as 2004 will certainly bring more challenges for the company, Diethelm would be "ready and reloaded" for further growth as well as creating further value for its business partners.

Diethelm Philippines started with 80 employees in 1998 and has grown to 849 employees today. The company's new state of the art distribution center is located in Bgy. Mamplasan, Binan, Laguna. Its current principals are leaders in the pharmaceutical and consumer healthcare industries and include United Laboratories, Solvay Pharmaceuticals, Berna, Alcon, Mead Johnson, Mentholatum, 3M ESPE, Masterfoods, Eucasan, TVP Dental-B, Ferring, Nestle, Multicare, Hexal, Issho-Genki, Cerebos, Lundbeck, Dyson Laboratories, Coloplast, ABS - Gen and Am-Europharma.

DIETHELM president and general manager Juergen Hirschberg toasts the company's top sales achievers and service awardees.

SONY LIFE PHILS RECEIVES P1 BILLION CASH INFUSION

Lifeplanner Bocc Aldana flares his big smile upon receiving his plaque and prize on stage for being the 3rd place awardee in the company's 2003 4th Quarter Contest. From left: Taro Okuda (deputy president of Sony Life Japan and chair and CEO of Sony Life Phils), Lifeplanner Bocc Aldana, Evangeline Aldana (mother), Florencio Aldana (father), Akira Yazawa (president and COO of Sony Life Phils) and Hiromitsu Onodera (EVP of Sony Life Phils).

New Benedictine prioress

SR. MARY John Mananzan, OSB, known for her activist and feminist stance, is the new prioress of the Benedictine Sisters of Tutzing. Elected during the congregation's chapter last January, Sr. Mary John replaces Mother Angelica Leviste, OSB, who served as the Benedictine sisters' superior for a total 16 years.

Sr. Mary John was immediate past president of St. Scholastica's College, Manila, where she finished a double degree, Bachelor of Arts in History and Bachelor of Science in Education major in History. She brings impressive credentials to her new position, having finished two masteral degrees, Philosophy and Missiology and, her doctoral degree, summa cum laude in Linguistic Philosophy, obtained from Pontifical Gregorian University.

But she is best known in and out of the religious community for her staunch defense of gender equality and women's rights. She was chairperson of the feminist nationalist organization Gabriela. She also initiated the formation of the Institute of Women's Studies and a women and ecology farm in Mendez, Cavite.

She was awarded the Dorothy Cadbury Fellowship in 1994, the Henry Luce Fellowship in 1995, and the Asian Public Intellectual Fellowship in 2002. She was given the Millennium Award in Education by the Asian Women of the Millennium in 2003.

JCB HOLDS 2ND RAFFLE DRAW

JCB International held its 2nd Charge Spree, Cash for Free raffle draw last Jan. 30, at BuyNText office in Shaw Blvd., Pasig City. The promo is part of the JCB $1M World Wide Campaign. Eight (8) winners were drawn that won P50,000 each credited to their JCB accounts. Present during the raffle are (front, seated): Shunichi Hatano (chief representative of JCB) and Virgilio Lamano (DTI representative), (back, standing): Winnie (representative from Bankard), Judith Goc-ong (representative from JCB), Teresita Silbor (representative from ECN), and Jimmy Ang (representative from JCB). The 3rd raffle draw will be on Feb. 27.

ProductFILES

Unleash your inner wild child

POPPY King Created two-limited edition leopard print lipsticks to celebrate Prescriptives' 33 wild new lipcolors. Poppy joined Prescriptives New York in late 2002 as the color designer and decorated two of the new shades with her signature leopard print (it won't come off on your lips - just in your attitude). Launching in February 2004, Poppy's debut collection of 33 shades will bring a whole new world of color to Prescriptives. Inspired by areas as diverse as New York's shopping districts, spice shops of Little India and art galleries, Poppy's goal was to create a "shade for every woman, every mood, every day - and night - of the week." The Poppy Lavish Lipstics retails at P900 and is available at Prescriptives, Rustan's Makati.

Dunkin' Donuts Wheel of Love

ARE you compatible with the object of your affection? Good thing there's Dunkin' Donuts Wheel of Love to help you through this test of compatibility. The Dunkin' Donuts Wheel of Love is a fun game to play with your special someone. It's an easy and amusing game to play. Spin the wheel to see what signs can best match yours. Packed in this triangular box are four delightful goodies from Dunkin' Donuts - three royally delicious Love Kremes and a yummy heart-shaped donut, which you can get for only P29. Get a box now at a Dunkin' Donuts outlet nearest you.

Pizza Hut's Lover's Pizzas

PIZZA Hut, the world's no. 1 pizza chain, introduces Lover's Pizzas - three great tasting and affordably priced pizzas that are sure to warm the heart of any pizza lover. For those dating or dining out on a tight budget, the Lover's Pizza comes in as a value-for-money pizza alternative. One can still take sumptuous bites of Pizza Hut's high-quality pizzas at an incredible low price of P149 for the regular pan pizza and P249 for the family pan pizza. What's more, the Lover's Pizza line offers not just one, nor two, but three exciting and unique pizza flavors - Cheesy Bacon, Pepperoni and Pork Barbecue, available in Pizza Hut's world famous pan pizza. Rush to your favorite Pizza Hut restaurant now or dial 911-11-11 and enjoy a great tasting and incredibly affordable pizzas.

MEDOCARE FOR LA SUERTE CIGAR AND CIGARETTE FACTORY

Medocare Health Systems Inc, recently signed a healthcare service agreement with La Suerte Cigar and Cigarette Factory to provide the latter's employees and officers a comprehensive healthcare program that includes preventive healthcare, outpatient care, in-patient care and emergency care services. Shown signing the contract of healthcare coverage at the Shangri-La Hotel, Makati are (seated, from left): Antonio Yao, vice president for operations of La Suerte Cigar and Cigarette Factory; and Col. Esteban Balingit Uy Jr., chair and chief executive officer of Medocare Health Systems Inc. Standing as witnesses are (from left): Ross Pestaño, Medocare VP for operations; Evelyn Kim, La Suerte Cigar assistant HRM; Dr. Luz Escaño, La Suerte Cigar medical director; lawyer Susan Resurreccion, La Suerte Cigar assistant vice president, HRM; Gerry Zapanta, Medocare executive vice-president and chief operating officer; Dr. Rafael Bantayan, Medocare senior vice president for medical affairs; Dr. Menandro Sandoval, Medocare medical director; and Gen. Enrique Cuadra, Medocare consultant.

TERIYAKI BOY LAUNCHES 5TH STORE

Teriyaki Boy, the first fast-casual Japanese restaurant, recently held the grand opening of its newest branch, Teriyaki Boy-Alabang, located at the Level 3 Chefs Avenue in Festival Mall. In photo are (from left): Germin Espino, TB general manager; Jaime Rizal Castillo, shift manager; Dennis Vince Cruz, shift manager; Bryan Tiu, Teriyaki Boy president; Philip Sayas, marketing coordinator; TB mascot; Wilma Aboy, shift manager; Cindy Abrigo, Alabang restaurant manager; Jennie-Lynn Cabal, TB training manager; and Hermie Decin, TB chief accountant.

MILIPITAS, CALIFORNIA MAYOR HONORED BY UP EPSILON CHI

Milipitas, California Mayor Jose S. Esteves was recently honored and recognized by U.P. Epsilon Chi Fraternity Alumni Inc at the Metro Club in Makati. 'Bogs', as his brods and friends call him, hails from Dagupan City, Pangasinan. He is the 1st Filipino to be elected Mayor of Milipitas, California, USA. He won by a landslide in last year's elections. Esteves gave an inspirational speech on how proud he is to be a Filipino and that nothing is impossible in the land of opportunity even for a minority like him, for as long as you work hard and are determined to achieve your goals. Photo shows Milipitas, California Mayor Bogs Esteves receiving a plaque from U.P. Epsilon Chi Governor David Lim.

Bits & Clips

cK event at Rockwell

THE SEXY new cK watches will be showcased through a special event happening today, at Level 1, North Court, Rockwell Power Plant, Makati City. There will also be a special watch exhibit from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. at the Rockwell Power Plant to showcase the utterly cool and sexy cK watch collection. cK offers a free gift item for every individual who purchases a cK watch from Feb. 22 to 29 in any of selected Time Depot stores. The first 50 guests at the special event each get a free cK mobile phone leather strap.

Love goes acoustic at The Podium

LOVE music continues at The Podium this February with a modern twist as Paolo Santos and Dominic and Burton express romance - acoustic style. Catch Paolo Santos live today and get a chance to see him perform up close and sign autographs. The performance will be at 4 p.m. Meanwhile, Dominic and Burton will have their Acoustic Piano Album launch on Sunday, Feb. 29 at 4 p.m. Watch them at The Podium's lounge area.

Bowling, billiard tourney's for fotogs

PHOTOGRAPHERS from different camera clubs in the country affiliated with the Federation of Philippine Photographers Foundation will hold bowling and billiard tournaments today, at the Bowling Inn in Taft Avenue, Malate, Manila. The billiard tournament will be from 10 to 12 in the morning while the bowling is from 1 to 6 p.m. Prizes are trophy, medals, gift certificates or gift packs from sponsors. For inquiries, cal FPPF at 843-5341/813-7420.

Annual Parangal ng Bayan

THE PARANGAL ng Bayan Foundation Inc, opens its search for outstanding Filipinos. The Annual Parangal ng Bayan, now on its 19th year, aims to recognize the accomplishments of deserving Filipino achievers through a grand public tribute. Those interested may submit the nominee's resume, four 2x2 photos (plain background), a brief description about his/her personal achievement and the application form duly filled up and signed. Deadline for submission is on Feb. 22. For inquiries, call 404-2302, 404-2818.

Cafe joins Purpose-Driven Life campaign

CHRISTIAN Agape Fellowship will take part on the national simulcast of the 40-days Purpose Driven Life campaign starting Feb. 22 until April 11 at Quezon City Christian Academy. Along with major churches and institutions, Cafe will help in sharing the gospel of Christ and the purpose of living in the Philippines through initiating the program to its university chapters. The campaign is based on Rick Warren's best selling book "Purpose Driven Life".

'Cruising the Groves'

AYALA Land Inc launches another phase of the nature-friendly Ayala Westgrove Heights. Visitors are invited to experience a special event, as Phase 3B-2 is unveiled. It will be launched today through an Ayala Land Inc marketing event with car sponsor BMW, called "Cruising the Groves". During the event, guests will be allowed to cruise in a BMW vehicle around the dream neighborhood. For more information about the event, call Giso Suiit at 841-5518 or Lala Nadal at 759-4225. For inquiries about Ayala Westgrove Heights, call 848-5000.

ICS-RP hosts AP meet

THE INTERNATIONAL College of Surgeons, Philippine Section hosts the International College of Surgeons 15th Joint congress of the Asia-Pacific Federation on Feb. 20, 21 and 22, at the Manila Hotel. The theme of the Congress is "Recent Advances and The Role of New Technology in the Practice of Surgeon." For particulars contact the ICS Secretariat c/o Irene or Eva at Rm. 108 PMA Bldg., North Avenue Diliman, QC at telefax no. 928-1190.

'Putok sa Bundok'

THE ST. Scholastica's Academy of Marikina Alumnae Association is calling all alumnae of SSAM batches 1967 to 2003 for "Putok sa Bundok", the Grand Alumnae Homecoming, today, at 8 a.m. to 12 noon at St. Irmburg's Covered Court. Contact your batch representatives or call 941-9497 or 941-3692.

MHCS Homecoming

CALLING all Kabalens and alumni priests, please come for the Mary Help of Christians Seminary Grand Kabalens Alumni Homecoming on Feb. 23 and 24 at MHCS in celebration of the Seminary's Diamond Jubilee Celebration.

St. Joseph Academy homecoming

CALLING all St. Joseph's Academy, Las Piñas, High School 1979 graduates and batchmates. There will be a grand alumni homecoming on March 20, 22 and 27. For details of the activities, call Enrique Sonoy at 0918-9432168, Ariel Angeles at 0920-5549929 or Roumela Santos-Riego at 0919-4421899.

Honesty lives

HARD times do not necessarily dampen some of the most cherished Filipino values. One of these is honesty. Reccie Co is a janitress of Reliance Resources Corp assigned at the Festival Mall in Alabang, Muntinlupa City. She found a bag containing P200,000 in cash and valuables. It was left inside a comfort room of the mall. Without any fuss, she turned it over to the mall's administration office. This was eventually returned to the owner. Festival Mall officials offered a commendation to Co, which she politely declined. "It's just part of my job. I don't think I did something out of the ordinary," Co said.

SM CINEMA

SM Dial-A-Movie 833-9999

NOW SHOWING

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1 KUYA
2 HAUNTED MANSION
3 MILAN
4 BONE SNATCHER
5 WISHING STAIRS
6 COLD MOUNTAIN
7 CHASING LIBERTY
8 RUNAWAY JURY

SM CITY CEBU
2313876

1 A TALE OF TWO SISTERS
2 STUCK ON YOU
3 MAGIC KITCHEN
4 OSCAR FILM FESTIVAL
5 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
6 KUYA
7 MILAN
8 MEMENTO MORI

SM CITY BACOOR
4173068

1 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
2 HAUNTED MANSION
3 COLD MOUNTAIN
4 KUYA
5 WISHING STAIRS
6 MILAN
7 CHASING LIBERTY
8 IN THE CUT

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
(088) 8592884

1 MONA LISA SMILE
2 MILAN
3 A TALE OF TWO SISTERS
4 STUCK ON YOU

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975

1 HAUNTED MANSION
2 KUYA
3 MILNA
4 COLD MOUNTAIN

SM BICUTAN
7753055

1 KUYA
2 HAUNTED MANSION
3 MILAN
4 COLD MOUNTAIN

SM CITY BAGUIO
(074) 4464505

1 HAUNTED MANSION
2 CABIN FEVER
3 MILAN
4 KUYA

SM STA. MESA
7149522 • 7161416

1 MILAN
2 MILAN
3 KUYA
4 SHIRI
5 RUNAWAY JURY
6 WISHING STAIRS
7 HAUNTED MANSION
8 CHASING LIBERTY
9 COLD MOUNTAIN
10 21 GRAMS

SM SOUTHMALL
6066699

1 SHIRI
2 HAUNTED MANSION
3 21 GRAMS
4 COLD MOUNTAIN
5 EMPEROR'S CLUB
6 OSCAR FILM FESTIVAL
7 MILAN
8 RUNAWAY JURY
9 KUYA
10 BONE SNATCHER

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9358749

1 SHIRI
2 CHASING LIBERTY
3 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
4 RUNAWAY JURY
5 KUYA
6 MILAN
7 KUYA
8 HAUNTED MANSION
9 COLD MOUNTAIN
10 WISHING STAIRS
11 MILAN
12 LAST SAMURAI

SM CITY MARILAO

1 CHASING LIBERTY
2 MILAN
3 PURI
4 HAUNTED MANSION

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

1 GATHERING
2 RESERVED
3 A TALE OF TWO SISTERS
4 MILAN
5 MONA LISA SMILE
6 KUYA
7 RESERVED
8 DIABLO

SM MEGAMALL
6331901

1 EMPEROR'S CLUB
RESERVE-A-SEAT dial 6306630
2 CHASING LIBERTY
3 COLD MOUNTAIN
4 BONE SNATCHER
5 HAUNTED MANSION
6 DUDA / DOUBT
7 OSCAR FILM FESTIVAL
8 21 GRAMS
9 KUYA
10 MILAN
11 RUNAWAY JURY
12 SHIRI

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1 HAUNTED MANSION
2 COLD MOUNTAIN
3 MILAN
4 KUYA

SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1 RUNAWAY JURY
2 COLD MOUNTAIN
3 EMPEROR'S CLUB
4 BONE SNATCHER
5 HAUNTED MANSION
6 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
7 ORCAR FILM FESTIVAL
8 CHASING LIBERTY
9 MILAN
10 SHIRI
11 WISHING STAIRS
12 KUYA

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998

1 MILAN
2 DIABLO
3 KUYA
4 A TALE OF TWO SISTERS
5 MONA LISA SMILE
6 STUCK ON YOU

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1 KUYA
2 A TALE OF TWO SISTERS
3 HAUNTED MANSION
4 WISHING STAIRS
5 COLD MOUNTAIN
6 MILAN

SM CITY LUCENA
(042) 7108577-80

1 HAUNTED MANSION
2 MILAN
3 LAST SAMURAI
4 KUYA

—THE—
PODIUM

1 RUNAWAY JURY
11:45 FS/12:15 MF/2:55/4:45/5:35/8:15/ 10:25 LFS/ 11:00 LMF/ 1:10 END

2 COLD MOUNTAIN
11:10 FS/11:40 MF/2:30/5:20/8:10 / 10:45 LFS/ 11:00 LMF/1:35 END

For Seat Reservation, call 633 8976
LATE NIGHT SCREENING DURING FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS

PELIKULA LIPUNAN 2004

SM Iloilo FEB22 | sunday

11:00am | Gay and Lesbian Works
1:30pm | Frida by Julie Taymor
4:00pm | Abong (Small Home) by Koji Imaizumi
6:30pm | Oro Plata Mata by Peque Gallaga

Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ALL DIGITAL SOUND AYALA CINEMAS PRESENTS

G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB1 GREENBELT 1	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 MILAN	1 MILAN	ArtFilm 1 IN AMERICA 11:45 2:50 5:55 9:00	THX GUARANTEED SEATS 1 COLD MOUNTAIN 2:05 5:10 8:15 11:20	THX 1 RUNAWAY JURY
2 COLD MOUNTAIN	2 BONE SNATCHER	2 COLD MOUNTAIN 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00	THX GUARANTEED SEATS 2 RUNAWAY JURY 4:25 7:25 10:05 12:45 11:25	2 COLD MOUNTAIN
3 RUNAWAY JURY	THX GUARANTEED SEATS 3 RUNAWAY JURY 11:50 2:30 5:10 7:50 10:30		GUARANTEED SEATS 3 21 GRAMS 2:55 5:35 8:15 10:55	3 MILAN
4 KUYA	4 TOTALLY BLONDE		GUARANTEED SEATS 4 MILAN 1:00 3:35 6:10 8:45 11:20	4 HAUNTED MANSION
	5 HAUNTED MANSION	REPERTORY'S FAME Feb 22 27 28 29 Mar. 6 & 7	GUARANTEED SEATS 5 CHASING LIBERTY 1:10 4:00 6:30 9:00 11:30	5 21 GRAMS
	6 COLD MOUNTAIN			
	7 CHASING LIBERTY			

For screening times, call 729-7777. Movies are subject to change without prior notice.
Reserve your seats by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 and send to 2333.
Or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.

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Filinvest Festival Cinema
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 MILAN
2 MILAN
3 CHASING LIBERTY
4 RUN AWAY JURY
5 COLD MOUNTAIN
6 THE HAUNTED MANSION
7 21 GRAMS
8 KUYA
9 TOTALLY BLOND
10 BONE SNATCHERS

Eastwood Cinemas
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72

1 MILAN
2 COLD MOUNTAIN
3 RUN AWAY JURY
4 KUYA

Masagana Cinema
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 , 833.3274

1 KUYA
2 HAUNTED MANSION
3 MILAN

stармall
www.clickthecity.com.ph Movies
(Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986

1 MILAN
2 KUYA
3 HAUNTED MANSION
4 COLD MOUNTAIN
5 GOOD LAWYER'S WIFE

METROPOLIS
www.clickthecity.com.ph star
(Alabang) tel 850.4285

1 PURI
2 GOOD LAWYER'S WIFE
3 KUYA
4 MILAN
5 HAUNTED MANSION
6 RUNAWAY JURY

Star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Las Pinas) tel 873.5004

1 LAST SAMURAI
2 KUYA

PREMIERE CINEMA
(Makati City) tel 892.2503

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1 MILAN
2 BROTHER BEAR

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1 MILAN
2
3
4

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

5 RESERVE
6
7 (DTS)
8 (SDDS)
9 (DOLBY)

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1 KUYA
2 MILAN
3 MILAN
4 (SDDS) COLD MOUNTAIN
5 GOOD LAWYER'S WIFE
6 (DOLBY) HAUNTED MANSION
7 (DTS) WISHING STAIRS
8 PURI
9 IN THE CUT

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 RESERVE
2 (SDDS)
3 DTS
4 DOLBY
5

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1 MAPAGBIGAY
2 MILAN
3 (DTS) LOST ISLAND
4 KUYA
5 (SDDS) HAUNTED MANSION

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1 RESERVE

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson HOT SPOT
Lords BRACING WOMEN

Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1 MILAN
2 KUYA
3 COLD MOUNTAIN
4 RESERVE

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY) COLD MOUNTAIN
2 HAUNTED MANSION
3 TOTALLY BLONDE
4 KUYA
5 MILAN

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1 STUCK ON YOU
2 GOOD LAWYER'S WIFE

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT
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1 KUYA
2 MILAN
3 (DTS DIGITAL) RUNAWAY JURY
4 (SDDS) COLD MOUNTAIN
5 (DTS) HAUNTED MANSION
6 HAUNTED OFFICE
7 CHASING LIBERTY

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX) COLD MOUNTAIN
2 MILAN
3 (DTS EX) KUYA
4 IN THE CUT

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121

1 KUYA
2 MILAN
3 (DOLBY) HAUNTED MANSION
4 (DTS) COLD MOUNTAIN

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489

1 MILAN
2 BELPHEGOR / SPY
3 (DOLBY) BROTHER BEAR
4 (DTS) IN THE CUT

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa, Laguna) tel (049) 837.0926

1 KUYA
2 COLD MOUNTAIN
3 (DTS) MILAN

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1 MILAN
2 (DTS) KUYA
3 (DOLBY) COLD MOUNTAIN
4 WISHING STAIR

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1 MILAN
2 (DOLBY) COLD MOUNTAIN
3 (DTS) KUYA
4 WISHING STAIR

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1 BROTHER BEAR
2 MILAN
3 (DOLBY) DIABLO

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1 MONA LIZA
2 MILAN
3 (DOLBY) TEXAS CHAINSAW MASACRE
4 (DTS) IN THE CUT

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795-3320

1 CHASING LIBERTY
2 MILAN
3 KUYA

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS) KAMANDAG NG ROSAS
2 IN THE CUT
3 KUYA
4 (DTS) GOOD LAWYER'S WIFE

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY) COLD MOUNTAIN
2 KUYA
3 (DTS) MILAN
4 WISHING STAIRS
5 GOOD LAWYER'S WIFE

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1 KUYA
2 MILAN

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249.2558

1 KUYA
2 MILAN
3 COLD MOUNTAIN

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283

1 SKY OF LOVE
2 MONA LIZA
3 (DTS) MILAN
4 (DOLBY) LAST SAMURAI

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel 520.8914

1 (DTS) RESERVE

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1 TWIN EFFECTS
2 MONA LIZA
3 CHASING LIBERTY
4 MILAN

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

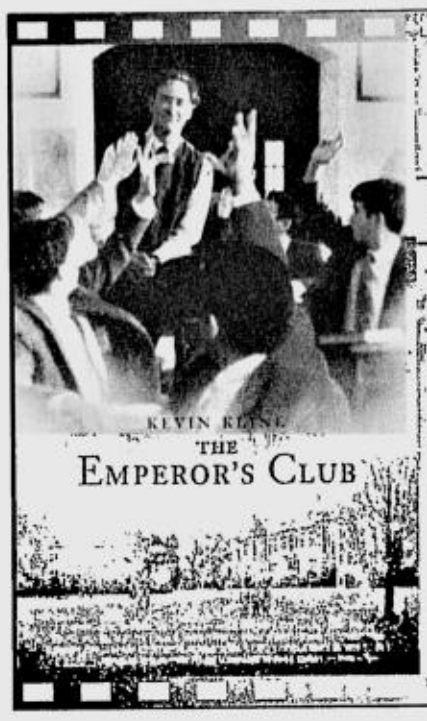
1 KUYA
2 MILAN

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY dts SDDS

Festival Supermall
Level 4
Filinvest - Alabang
Tel. 85035-71 to 72
Schedule subject to change without prior notice

NOW SHOWING



SM CINEMA Critics' CHOICE

USA

THE EMPEROR'S CLUB

Based on the short story "The Palace Thief" by Ethan Canin, Kevin Kline stars as William Hundert, a passionate and principled Classics professor who finds his tightly-controlled world shaken and inexorably altered when a new student, Sedgewick Bell (Emile Hirsch), walks into his classroom. What begins as a fierce battle of wills gives way to a close student-teacher relationship, but results in a life lesson for Hundert that will still haunt him a quarter of a century later.

Now Showing
SM Megamall, Cinema 1
SM City Manila, Cinema 3
SM Southmall, Cinema 5

MTRCB RATING : P13

For Screening schedules, Dial 833.9999

MTRCB RATING R-13

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THE MOVIE YOU ALMOST FAILED TO SEE ON THE BIG SCREEN...

MTRCB RATING ► R-13 ! Strictly for thirteen years of age and up.

From master storyteller John Grisham ("The Firm", "The Pelican Brief") comes RUNAWAY JURY, a suspenseful thriller about a high-priced and ruthless jury "consultant" (Gene Hackman) who will stop at nothing to secure a yerdict on an explosive trial. With lives and millions of dollars at stake, the fixer wages a deadly battle with a jury member (John Cusack), a mysterious woman (Rachel Weisz) and an honest lawyer (Dustin Hoffman).

Runaway Jury marks the first pairing of Hollywood legends GENE HACKMAN and DUSTIN HOFFMAN.

Don't miss this once in a lifetime event on screen.

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7 ACADEMY AWARD NOMINATIONS

13 BRITISH ACADEMY FILM AWARD NOMINATIONS
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632-9115 to 16 / 687-0593

CINEMA 1 THX

HAUNTED MANSION
11:10, 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00

2 MILAN 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00	3 COLD MOUNTAIN 10:20, 1:15, 4:10, 7:05, 10:00 DTS	4 WISHING STAIRS 12:05, 2:15, 4:35, 6:35, 9:00
5 CRUNAWAY JURY 10:10, 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00	6 21 GRAMS 11:45, 2:00, 4:15, 6:40, 9:00 SDDS	7 BONE SNATCHER 11:05, 1:10, 3:15, 5:20, 7:25, 9:30
8 CHASING LIBERTY 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50	9 KUYA 10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00	10 TOTALLY BLONDE 12:05, 2:15, 4:25, 6:35 9:00

MATINEE: Monday to Friday/ 10 am-4pm except holidays
Matinee Price: P100 THX cinema / P80 for one level cinemas
Regular Price: P130 THX / P95/65 for two levels cinemas / P95 for one level cinemas

ERMITA
526-7185 / 536-7809 to 12

1 MILAN 11:10, 1:50, 4:30, 7:10, 9:50 DOLBY DIGITAL EX		
2 COLD MOUNTAIN 10:10, 1:00, 3:50, 6:40, 9:50	3 KUYA 10:10, 12:25, 2:40, 4:55, 7:10, 9:40	4 WISHING STAIRS 10:10, 12:05, 2:00, 3:55, 5:50, 7:45, 9:50
5 RUNAWAY JURY 11:50, 2:30, 5:10, 7:50, 10:00	6 HAUNTED MANSION 10:10, 12:05, 2:00, 3:55, 5:50, 7:45, 9:50 SDDS	7 CHASING LIBERTY 10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50 DTS

Big R Supercenter METRO EAST
682-8193/99 / 682-8280

1 HAUNTED MANSION 10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 9:00	2 COLD MOUNTAIN 11:10, 2:25, 5:40, 9:00 SDDS	
3 KUYA 11:20,1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 9:00	4 CHASING LIBERTY 11:20, 1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 9:00	5 RUNAWAY JURY 10:20, 12:30, 3:20, 6:10, 9:00
6 MASTER AND COMMANDER/ MYSTIC RIVER 11:30, 2:10, 4:15, 6:55, 9:00	7 MILAN 10:15, 12:55, 3:35, 6:15, 9:00 DTS	8 WISHING STAIRS 11:00, 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00

Big R Supercenter NOVALICHES / FAIRVIEW
935-3229 / 31

1 HAUNTED MANSION 11:00, 12:50, 2:45, 4:40, 6:35, 8:30	2 CHASING LIBERTY 11:00, 1:25, 3:50, 6:15, 8:40	
3 KUYA 10:35, 11:50, 2:05, 4:20, 6:35, 8:50	4 WISHING STAIRS 10:40, 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:10	5 MILAN 10:30, 12:35, 3:20, 6:05, 8:50
6 RUNAWAY JURY 10:10, 12:10, 2:50, 5:30, 8:30	7 COLD MOUNTAIN 10:10, 11:40, 2:30, 5:20, 8:30	8 MASTER COMMANDER / MYSTIC RIVER 11:45, 2:40, 5:20, 8:30

Citisquare MALABON
288-0985/2575

1 HAUNTED MANSION
2 MILAN
3 KUYA
4 COLD MOUNTAIN

big Supercenter CAINTA
240-4661

1 HAUNTED MANSION
2 MILAN
3 KUYA
4 COLD MOUNTAIN

Big R Supercenter STA. ROSA
Laguna (049)837-0907

1 MILAN
2 WISHING STAIRS
3 KUYA
4 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
5 COLD MOUNTAIN

Big R Supercenter LIPA
757-3664 / 312-5870

1 MILAN
2 THE TWINS EFFECT
3 HAUNTED OFFICE
4 CHASING LIBERTY
5 MONA LISA SMILE

Big R Supercenter DASMARIÑAS
852-2125

1 KUYA
2 MILAN
3 CHASING LIBERTY
4 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
5 THE HAUNTED MANSION

Big R Supercenter STARMILLS
San Fernando Pampanga
875-1927 / 961-5270

1 A TALE OF TWO SISTERS
2 WISHING STAIRS
3 MILAN
4 KUYA
5 HAUNTED MANSION
6 COLD MOUNTAIN

IMUS
471-8188 / 875-5858

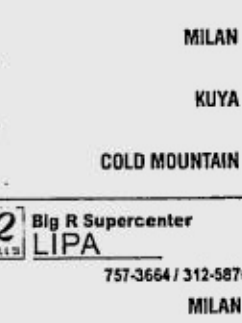
1 HAUNTED MANSION
2 CHASING LIBERTY
3 KUYA
4 COLD MOUNTAIN DTS
5 MILAN
6 WISHING STAIRS

BACOLOD
441-0458/59

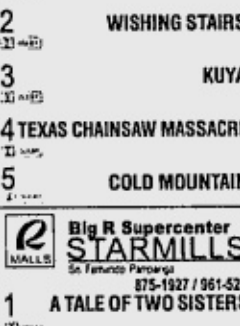
1 MILAN
2 MONA LISA SMILE
3 A TALE OF TWO SISTERS
4 DIABLO
5 UNDER THE TUSCAN SUN
6 HAUNTED OFFICE

ILOILO
336-8070/78

1 MONA LISA SMILE
2 KUYA
3 MILAN
4 A TALE OF TWO SISTERS
5 DIABLO
6 THE GATHERING



See it at its **BEST**



at Robinsons Movieworld Cinemas

SPECIAL SCREENING

*** Master and Commander / Mystic River***

Robinsons Movieworld METRO EAST and NOVALICHES

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

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Sunday BIZ

Food firms go on a diet

By Divina C. Paredes
Contributor

NEW Zealand—Driven by the growing number of diet-conscious consumers, a number of food manufacturers are starting to offer smaller size portions.

Companies that have joined the downsizing trend include Coca Cola and Pepsi, according to a new report from Datamonitor.

But slimming down doesn't mean lower profits, reports the market research company. A 13.2 oz contour bottle of Coke sells for 89 US cents or about .07 US cents per ounce. A 20 oz bottle costs $1.09. Datamonitor says manufacturers are betting consumers are willing to pay for the smaller size bottles because they are more convenient and reduce the temptation to drink too much of the sugary stuff.

Still, says Datamonitor, this strategy also has risks because many consumers associate quantity (or hefty servings and sizes) with value. Datamonitor points out, however, the strategy of Coke is crucial in recruiting new users such as children, or aging weight conscious baby boomers.

Nutritionists, on the other hand, are increasingly pressing the food industry for smaller portions. Recent research has shown that people given large portions consumed 18 to 56 percent more calories in one sitting than those given smaller portions.

The US Food and Drug Administration is also demanding clearer labeling for packaged foods. Many packages sold as single servings are actually twice the official serving size, says Datamonitor.

Food manufacturers however, insist they are merely responding to consumer demands. In the case of lower sized offerings, the aging population demands drinks that do not go flat before they finish drinking them and food servings they can finish without feeling stuffed.

'Walis tambo' to sweep foreign shores

By Joyce Mejillano
Southern Luzon Bureau

MANITO, Albay—With an abundance of tiger grass, locally called *tambo* or *talahib*, this remote and small agricultural town by the Albay Gulf, some 50 kilometers southeast of Legazpi City, is dreaming to soon capture the international market for its quality soft brooms.

Manito, which offers a scenic view of the Mayon Volcano and the Albay Gulf, is rich in tiger grass that grows in almost 35 percent of Manito's 10,740 hectares of land. Tiger grass is considered the town's bread and butter, after fishing.

Tiger grass is used in making soft broom or *samud* in Bicol and *walis tambo* in Tagalog.

The soft broom industry has been the source of income of about 85 percent of the town's population of 20,000.

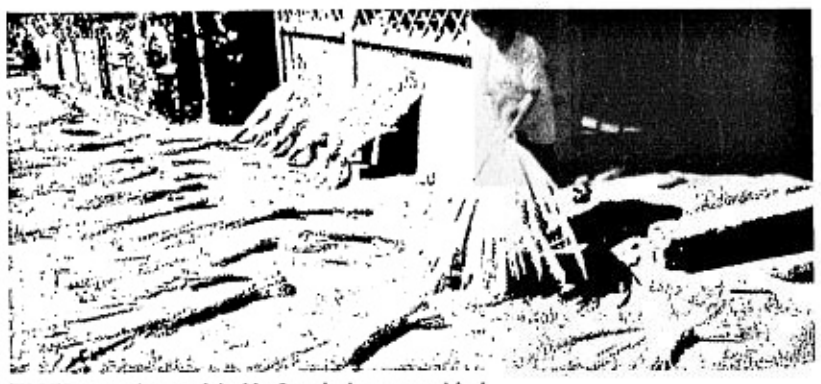
It gives opportunity to the villagers, especially the women, to augment the income of their respective families.

Mayor Carmencita Daep says almost all of the 15 barangays of the municipality have tiger grass grown in their area and the soft broom industry is considered as a backyard business of many families.

It is being sold to different parts of the country, especially in Baguio City and Metro Manila.

It has also been the source of income of the people in charge of its distribution to both local and outside markets.

Villagers engaged in soft broom making say some of them earn as high as P200 per day.



TIGER grass is sun dried before being assembled.

Process

Tiger grass is easy to grow and is ready for harvest after a year. But this kind of grass is very prone to pests such as mites, thus, many farmers plant sweet potatoes to ward off the pests.

According to Manito folk, the months of April, May and June are considered the peak season in the industry.

After harvest, tiger grass is sun-dried for about three days to ensure its strength.

While it is being dried, the farmers remove its flowers by threshing.

Once the grass turns yellowish, it is ready to be assembled, which the local folks called "pagbudbod" (tying) where a handful or "kumkom" of tiger grass is tied to a stick, usually about eight centimeters long, using a hard and soft plastic or rattan tier.

To enhance its look and increase its value, soft broom makers decorate the product by making various designs, usually done through the help of colorful plastic tiers.

The finished products cost around P25 to P85 each, depending on the intricacy of the design.

Struggle

The Manito soft broom industry, however, is faced with an identity crisis. One often sees the product labeled as "Made in Baguio City."

To solve the problem, the local government and local broom makers from the 15 barangays of Manito came up with a cooperative, the San Rafael Development Cooperative (Sadeco), which is now responsible for controlling the quality, price and marketing of the soft brooms.

Organized in 2002, the Sardeco buys the farmers' produce and looks for its market in and outside the Bicol Region.

The municipal government lent P10,000 for the initial fund of the cooperative while the Department of Agriculture also gave Sardeco P200,000 to develop the industry—from tiger grass farming to producing quality soft brooms.

"There are some broom makers here who sell the product at a very low price, while some are not strict with the quality. Then, there are those who easily concede to branding the products as 'Made in Baguio,' so how can we develop good reputation and establish a name if this is the case?" says Evelyn Logronio, Sardeco chair.

Logronio says they have now come up with a new style of packaging, a plastic label ordered from Metro Manila, which when dipped in hot water or exposed to hot temperature sinks and sticks tight to the broom holder.

Sardeco alone produces and distributes more than 20,000 pieces of soft brooms every peak season. This is aside from the production of individual manufacturers in the municipality, who are non-Sardeco members and still have their own market up to now.

Market

Logronio says they are now improving the quality of the town's soft broom to target the international market.

Daep recalls that during her visit to Hongkong with Albay Gov. Al Francis Bichara, they made an investment promotion activity and talked to Bicolanos about the possible export of soft brooms in that place.

The mayor says the Hong Kong-based Bicolanos agreed to develop the market in their area.

They have also been participating in different trade exhibits to let the people know that this humble town by the bay could produce a world-class quality soft broom.

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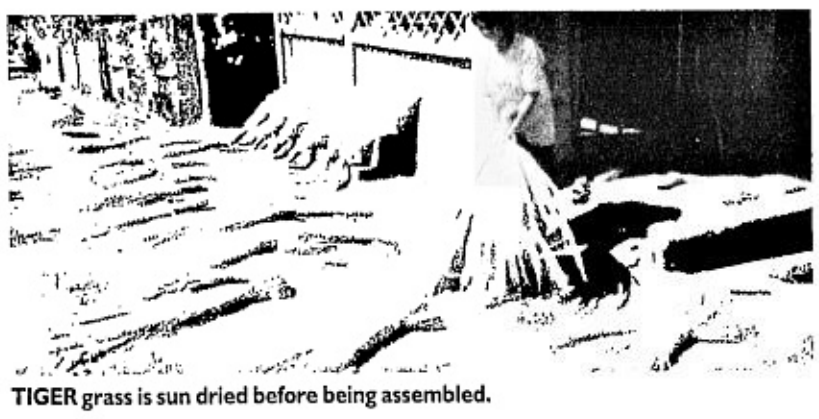

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E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino

Digs at Dish dismissed

DISH'S Philip Cu-unjieng handles promotions and is seen every night at the place to be seen. EDWIN BACASMAS

The place to be seen is alive and rocking

By Nini Valera

WHO DISSED Dish is still a mystery to Philip Cu-unjieng, one of the managing partners of "the place to be seen" at the Rockwell Power Plant in Makati.

Philip, who is a feature writer of some note, is also wondering how anyone can simply put down a veritable pleasure palace that offers the best in food and music.

But Philip has overcome this sense of wonderment as Dish is still the place to be seen in Makati, even if lovebirds Ara Mina and Jomari Yllana, one recent Sunday, thought the place had closed down.

"See what I mean? There is really this talk going around that Dish is gone," says Philip.

He can only speculate on how talk that Dish is closing down has gone around. In fact, according to Philip, the owners of Dish are negotiating with the management of Rockwell for space on the ground floor. Also, a satellite Dish will open at the ABS Loop in Quezon City in March.

Business as usual

The total ban on smoking in Makati is not helping Dish maintain its business base, parts of which come from the demographics

DIGS/ C2

JASON on short-lived marriage: Most adventurous thing I ever did, but pretty stupid. ROGER MARGALLO

JASON MRAZ ADMITS

Spur-of-moment marriage sent him into panic

By Marinel R. Cruz

AMERICAN singer-songwriter Jason Mraz had married a friend in Las Vegas for fun. But like pop superstar Britney Spear's marriage to her Louisiana childhood friend in Las Vegas last January, which ended two days later, Jason's marriage had also been short-lived.

He told a gathering of entertainment writers last Friday that the spur-of-the-moment union had "freaked him out."

"It was the most adventurous thing I ever did. I think that was pretty stupid," Mraz, dressed in a maroon shirt and bonnet, said.

The 26-year-old performer added, "I thought we were having a good time. But she took it seriously and changed her name to Mrs. Mraz."

Panicked

He confessed that he panicked when they started receiving wedding gifts, "so I decided not to pursue it anymore."

Spears filed for an annulment two days after her wedding, saying in court papers that she and her husband were "incompatible."

Mraz had left Virginia for California in

SPUR-OF-MOMENT/ C2

KENKOY KLASIKS by Tony Velasquez celebrating 75 years

ALIWAN 1936 from the LOPEZ MUSEUM collection / Courtesy of KOMIKS CAFE / INQ EDITION 2.22.04

Abangan bukas. Dito rin.

See 'Riles'; see life as it lays

JUICE

Jo-Ann Q. Maglipon

"RILES" is as much about life along the railroad tracks in Balic-Balic in Sampaloc, as it is about the journalism we badly need more of in and beyond Metro Manila.

Yet today, it is just the kind of journalism that our most prosperous publishers and most successful producers will not touch.

It took the British to do it. Its National Film and Television School provided 4,500 pounds, or roughly 405,000 pesos in 2001, to allow its Filipina student, Ditsi Carolino, now 14 years a filmmaker, to direct this video-documentary on "Life on the Tracks."

Our local moneybags simply will not plunk hard cash into a project that will take nearly three months on pre-production work, more than four months to shoot, and close to a year to edit, from its original 35 hours to four, and finally to its 70 minutes running time.

And what is more, that has for its editor Valerio Bonelli, assistant editor for "Gladiator" and "Black Hawk Down," and also a graduate of the National Film and Television School.

And yet, if "Riles" is anything to go by, this is just the kind of journalism this woebegone country is best served by.

For media owners promising substance and relevance from their ranks: this is a subject they should lock in on, a subject to absolve them of all the fluff that for so long has brought in the money.

And for politicians stridently promising solutions to poverty: this is exactly that which gives a face and a name to the poor, without which all that stridence becomes criminal.

Feel good

But, wait, it must be said: "Riles" is a feel-good piece!

Very strange—but this documentary is not disheartening, not dark, not a downer. It is not depressing. Certainly, it is about wretchedness, but it doesn't leave you feeling wretched. It doesn't leave you slumped in your seat, it makes you want to go out and do something!

Much of this, I believe, owes to Eddie and Pen, the couple whose lives are the center of this story.

They are such a vigorous couple, for whom there is always high drama in the works, around whose lives there is much that is imperfect, disturbed here by gin, there by nagging, but inside whom there is much that is noble.

Or how else to describe a *balut* vendor and a housemaid, living on borrowed time in a borrowed hovel, who cannot buy a small hamburger for a beloved daughter, and yet adopt three more children on top of their own two?

We actually find ourselves in awe of them. Even better, we laugh with them—through their tit-for-tat barbs, their asides, their jokes, their karaokes, and right through to the bottom of their bottomless quarrels. Still even better, we end up thinking we have to do something about our own lives!

We cannot burden the likes of Eddie and Pen with our own depression—even as a gesture of empathy. There is too much lightness in their ways and passion in their flesh, too much life throbbing in there, for us not to hide our own silly angst in their presence.

Pre-production

How Ditsi Carolino and her cinematographer Nana Buxani chose them, of all the couples in all the railroad tracks, is precisely why "Riles" invested three months for pre-prod.

Nana says they followed many couples before Eddie and Pen, but gave up on all when one or the other was found to be on shabu. They ended up asking the parish to introduce them to couples who were poor but lived above the muck, but their search didn't end there, because the parish introduced them to three more families. After another patient round of investigation, they finally latched on to Eddie and Pen Renomeron.

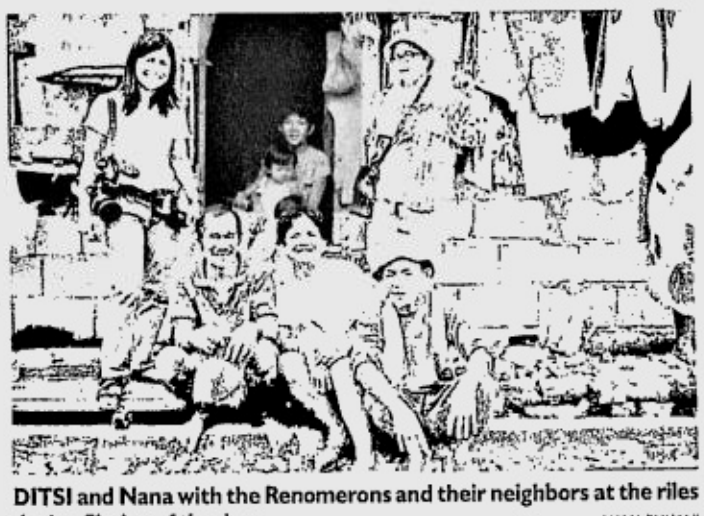
"Kasi kwela talaga mag-away ang mag-asawa," Nana says. *"Tinatapon ni* Pen *ang damit ni* Eddie *sa riles pag nagagalit. Pero maski na ganoon, disenteng magbabalot si* Eddie *at walang nagdo-droga sa pamilya."*

Actual shoot

The documentary is a seamless telling of the extraordinary life of one very ordinary couple. It coheres like a movie, but this being reality, which means it could not lean on fictional embellishments, intelligent filming instincts and superb editing have to be at work. And they are.

Indeed, Nana swears they never set up Eddie and Pen to create dialogue. At most, they used radio mikes, which gave them hearing access to the couple's home. *"Pag nagsisimula nang mag-away, takbo na kami,"* says Nana.

But the camera remains unobtrusive. Except for three occasions—once, when the tot looks at the camera; a second time, when a voice from out-of-camera range prods a daughter with *"Bakit?"*; and a third, when Eddie tries to tell Pen that the money at the store wasn't his, and that in fact he got off the hook there because Ditsi and Nana bailed him out—the outside would barely transgresses into the world of the tracks.



DITSI and Nana with the Renomerons and their neighbors at the riles during filming of the docu. NANA BUXANI

How is that? Rushing in, did not their lights disturb the couple fighting?

"No, we didn't use lights," Nana explains. "And we only had a PD150 DV cam with a Seinheisser mike."

Which is supposed to mean that on the camera was mounted a uni-directional mike, which functions like a boom mike, but is not gargantuan; and in the pocket of Eddie, they left a radio mike to track him "because he walks so fast when he's selling *balut*!"

Journalism

But second to Eddie and Pen, the docu owes Ditsi and Nana, applause for whom is an applause for all journalism.

The British Broadcasting Corporation thinks so, too. That outstanding global media institution has just bought "Riles"! Ditsi Carolino is in London right now, working with editor Bonelli, to trim the docu down to 60 minutes.

Over here, anyone interested in showing "Riles" may get in touch with Ditsi or Nana at 926-6054.

As for Eddie and Pen, you'll be glad to know that they have been given 10 percent of all ticket sales to all screenings of "Riles," and they have sold *balot* in each of them, at one time topping their sales with a grand 700 pesos!

Digs at Dish dismissed

From page C1

where heavy smokers belong to, Philip admits. But he has stopped dwelling on these unpleasantness, and it's business as usual for the man and his partner, EJ Litton, whose brainchild Dish is.

"We'd be three years in July," says Philip. "We can't ask for more. Maybe, a place on the ground floor would be the only thing that we desire. We're currently negotiating for that."

No battle for space

At 980 square meters, Dish is the largest entertainment center in Metro Manila. There is no battle for premium space or seats. No argument about the music. No fault with the food. The concept took care of all this.

"Talagang concept-driven," says Philip. "The idea is a food court where the customers can take their pick of cuisine from the restaurants here and avail themselves of the convenience of a waiter service."

While most restaurants have only one kitchen, Dish has at least three, down from seven after the other outlets, like the steak place of "Melo's", decided to pack up and consolidate its stand in the soon-to-open Dish in Quezon City. But despite the downgrade, Dish can still dish up a mean "Shitakee in Filo" or "Diced Duck in Filo," both served with special sauces, which this writer had tasted and had proclaimed as splendid.

RETRO music reigns at Dish with Spirit of 67 bringing back the hits of the '60s and '70s. EDWIN BACASMAS

I have never seen so many gray-haired men and women letting their hair down on the dance floor to the '60s mercy beat of the band called Spirit of 67.

Now, let's talk music

The group, composed of eclectic personas (at least one from advertising, like Bimbo Santiago on vocals, who used to be an account executive in almost all the major advertising agencies in Manila) and the female lead singer, Mazo Diez of Hotdog fame. Fiftysomething women felt free to relive their youth and unabashedly climbed on stage to do some ramp dancing. Oh, boy! What it's like to be sexy and seventeen again.

And that's just for the one night that Spirit of 67 was on stage.

Philip is equally proud of the rest of the other nights at Dish: John Y Cash (John Lesaca and Cash Manalang, formerly of Manila Band) on Mondays; retro music from Rocking Revival on Tuesdays; new versions of the acoustic wave in MYMP (Make Your Mama Proud), who gives the mellow sound a bit of R&B and more soul on Wednesdays; the acoustic trio Adjundie, who transform songs like "Blame it on the Boogie" into an acoustic spectacle, on Thursdays; Pido on Fridays; and Seven Shots and K 24/7 on Saturdays for R&B, rap, hip-hop and everything else that represent the young.

Day at Dish

"There is so much talent around," says Philip. "So music has always been an important part of the Dish concept. Like we go out of our way to bring to the Makati crowd different forms and styles of entertainment. Different genres of music. So everybody has a day here at Dish.

"You can see the philosophy—to provide different music to different kinds of people. We're not stuck on just one genre. The song never remains the same. Sure, we've had a share of the Side As, the Southborders, the Freestyles, but we were also the first to bring the new wave of acoustic in shows of Nyoy Volante, Paolo Santos and Jimmy Bondoc. We'd like to offer everyone their type of music every night."

Mraz on stage

Last Friday, Dish had Jason Mraz performing live on its stage, with only his acoustic guitar as accompaniment. Mraz, perhaps the only legitimate contemporary foreign artist to perform in Manila this season, brought to Dish the intimacy of a cocktail lounge with his heartfelt songs in the show called "Proximity."

Philip described Mraz's show as different than the singer's Aliw concert in the sense that the intimacy between performer and artist was never lost, something that tends to disappear in a concert venue like Aliw.

One thing else that only Dish can offer to its client is the absence of intimidation. In Makati, Dish has become the comfort zone of pleasure seekers, still the place to be seen or not be seen at all.

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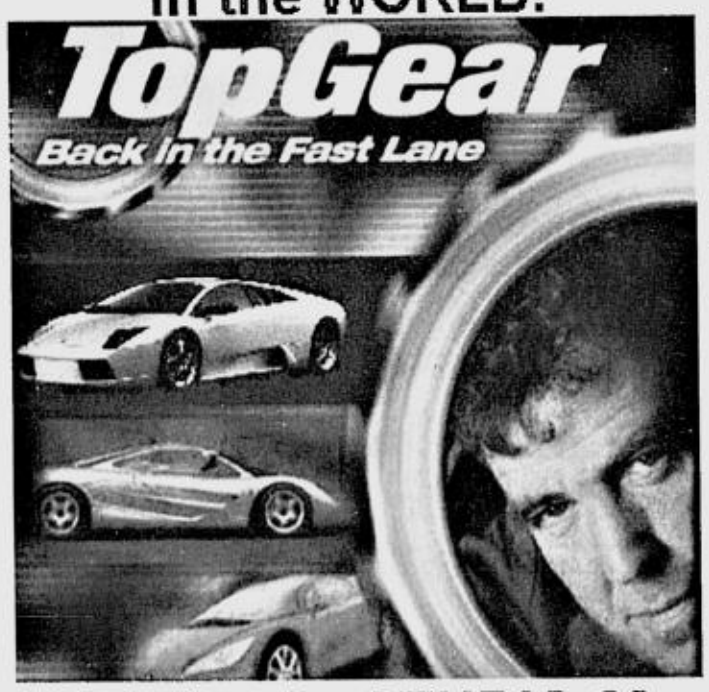

Sunday 5p STUDIO 23

Spur-of-moment marriage sent him . . .

From page C1

1999. He lived in San Francisco for a while, but moved to San Diego shortly because he said he was attracted to the growing acoustic scene there. It was around that time that Mraz met percussionist Toca Rivera, and "fell in love with everything he was doing."

With Rivera and his band, Mraz quickly attracted fans, who followed his music via the Internet.

"I was always singing and writing," said Mraz. "I've always wanted to be a singer in life. I used to write other people's music before I started playing my own. I used to take an instrumental CD of so many bands and would write my own words."

Telling his own stories

In 2002, Mraz released his debut album "Waiting For My Rocket To Come," which contains uniquely crafted songs like "You and I Both," "Sleep All Day," "The Remedy" and "Curbside Prophet."

"I want to tell my own stories. I want to tell it through my own music," Mraz said of the songs in his album.

Mraz was in Manila for a one-night concert at the Aliw Theater last Saturday with Paolo Santos as his special guest performer. The night before, he performed at Dish in an intimate concert called "Proximity, also with Santos.

He said his latest hit single "Curbside Prophet" speaks a lot about his music. "It's about people who perform in the streets," Mraz explained. "I did a bit of that in my early years in the business.

"I try to have a sense of humor about everything," Mraz added. "I try to do my best for my songs to speak. If I've written a song that I find so serious, I'd go back and write it again and make fun of the same topic."

Mraz considers the single "Sleep All Day," one of the oldest songs he has written, as most reflective of his personality. "It tells of three different stories. It's about different relationships and experiences that I've had with different folks," he said. "Its message is that whatever you do, make the most out of it. If you're going to sleep, sleep all day."

Success as side effect

But he has not changed in spite of his success, Mraz said. "Toca and I still try our best to make eye contact with everyone when we're onstage," Mraz explained. "We talk to the crowd and ask them questions. We're basically the same."

He has this to say to aspiring performers: "They first have to recognize what they are most passionate about. They should make sure that they do it without expecting money. I think if you're in the world of art, you have to make a vow to be poor in your entire life.

"If you're being as passionate as you can be about it, then that will attract viewers. Success will become nothing more than a side effect."

MRAZ to aspiring musicians: You have to make a vow to be poor in your entire life.

Continuing the Promise for Future Champions

With the summer months almost at hand, MILO is about to embark on its biggest program for the country's aspiring young sports enthusiasts. The MILO Summer Sports Clinics will again be opening its doors to young athletic hopefuls with activities that will surely be worth their summer vacation.

This year's programs aim to continue its tradition of creating the country's future sports champions. The clinics ensure that children will develop their passion for sports, as well as sportsmanship, teamwork, and discipline that will be essential in their physical and mental progress.

Already in its 21st year, the MILO Summer Sports Clinics has been the most successful sports program for children in the country, providing the most effective scientific approach to sports fundamentals. Its team of coaches, sports facilitators and trainers are among the best in the country, with years of experience in cultivating good character among children.

From its humble beginnings two decades ago and starting with a basketball program with the MILO BEST Center, the MILO Summer Sports Clinics has increased the number of programs to 16. Among these are badminton, basketball, bowling, chess, football, gymnastics, ice skating, karatedo, lawn tennis, muay thai, squash, swimming, table tennis, taekwondo, volleyball, and wall climbing. Since then, joining the MILO Summer Sports Clinics has become the more preferred endeavor for parents and children.

Many of the country's rising young athletes are proud graduates of the MILO Summer Sports Clinics and all are encouraging young people like them to join. Five young students are here to inspire and to urge kids their age to enroll.

The most prominent up and coming athlete in the international field of ice skating and definitely a figure to watch for in the near future is Katrice Delos Reyes. A consistent winner in local and international ice skating competitions, Katrice is expected to further raise eyebrows in forthcoming ice skating tournaments as she competes in a field which is dominated by athletes from countries that experience winter. Katrice has been a constant gold medallist in the solo compulsory, jump and spin, footworks, couples, stroking, and technical categories of the SM – ISI Ice Skating Championships since 1998. What caught the attention of the nation was when Katrice unexpectedly won the gold medals of the technical, solo compulsory, solo spotlight, and footworks categories of the 2000 ISI World Recreational Team Championships held at Minneappolis, Minnesota, USA. The feat was repeated in Columbus, Ohio in the year 2001 for the same categories. Katrice gathered more golds for competitions held in Hong Kong, Bangkok, and Boston, USA. Katrice learned her trade in the Ice Skating Program of the MILO Summer Sports Clinics. According to Katrice, "It was in the MILO Summer Sports Clinics, that I learned focus and discipline, the two most vital elements which make ice skating champions."

Ice-skater Katrice Delos Reyes, slicing through ice with grace.

Paulo Jay Dawal smashes his way to recognition.

Paulo Jay Dawal is an aspiring badminton player, who won the Most Outstanding Athlete in last year's prestigious MILO Little Olympics. The 15-year old Dawal, who started out early in his passion for the popular racquet sport, said he owes much of his skills from his entry into the MILO Summer Sports Clinics. "It was here that I learned the basics of badminton and also how to become a team player."

Carla Beatriz Grabador creating ripples that reverberate beyond her sport.

Philippine Sports Commission Chairman and former Olympic swimming star Eric Buhain would be very proud to see that 12-year old Carla Beatriz Grabador is following in his footsteps and hopes to become the country's bet in upcoming swimming competitions. A student of St. Paul College of Pasig, Grabador said that she learned discipline from joining the MILO Summer Sports Clinics. "Swimming is a physically exhausting sport that requires discipline and focus. I'm happy that I'm also able to apply what I learned in my school activities."

Frances Audrey Muñoz stretching beyond limits.

A future follower of renowned gymnastics champion Bea Lucero is Frances Audrey Muñoz, who won several gold medals in the first three Bea Lucero Gymnastics Cup. Audrey excels in several events of gymnastics such as the vault, beam, bars, and floor exercises. She also owes her skills to the MILO Summer Sports Clinics and she promises to continue what she has learned.

Margarita Simbulan is proof that heart and skill are all it takes to thrive.

Very few women are skilled in martial arts and it is a pleasant surprise to see fresh-faced Margarita Simbulan excelling in karatedo, one of the two martial arts included in the MILO Summer Sports Clinics. A gold medallist in the Individual Kumite Level for the 2nd De La Salle Santiago Zobel Invitational last year, the 10-year old Simbulan said she learned to value her strengths and overcome her weaknesses from the MILO Summer Sports Clinics. "I developed self-esteem at the clinic. It was here that I learned that I could be the best in anything I do as long as I am confident. Such character is necessary for us children in order to be successful," she said.

MILO has been in the Philippines for 40 years and it is still pursuing its commitment to help develop future Olympians through its various sports-oriented programs such as the Summer Sports Clinics, BEST Center, Little Olympics, SBP-Passerelle, and the Marathon. MILO reinforces its continued support to Philippine sports by continually seeking and developing future champions for the country.

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Chess - 826-8560/434-7542/(0916) 852-1069 • Football - 727-1169/723-0481 loc. 215/(0917) 845-9987/(0918) 929-8177/(0927) 472-3099
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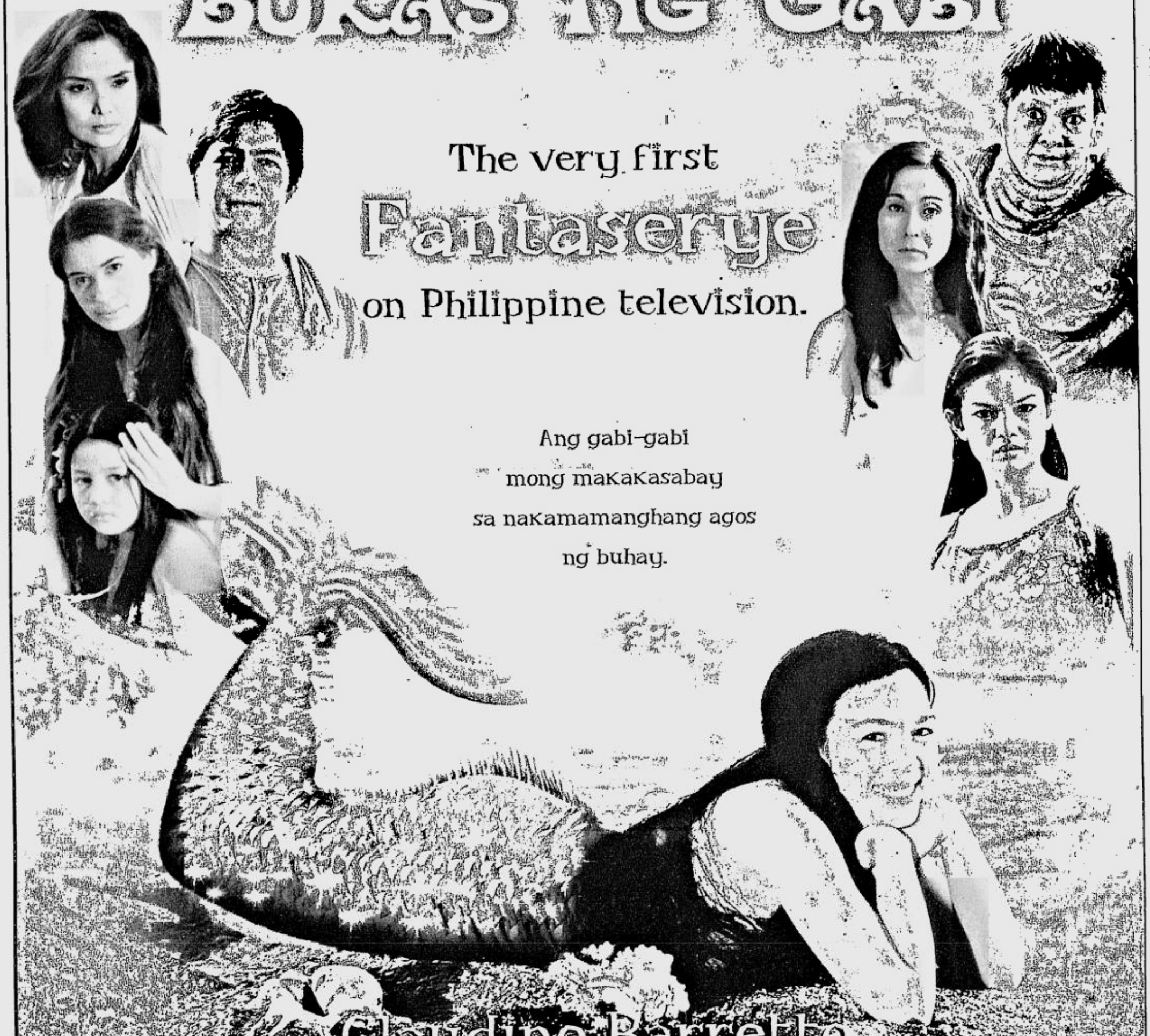

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Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

FAMOUS goes to Sydney /C1

Fall in love with AYALA MALLS (Lifestyle Section)

High on Hugh in New York City

THE AUTHOR with the Englishman in New York. This photo was taken Dec 16, 2002, at the taping of the ABC morning show "The View," where Grant guested to promote his movie "Two Weeks Notice."

The Big Apple is the city of fortunate accidents, random meetings and sudden engagements—with Hugh Grant

By Carissa Villacorta
Contributor

IN New York, dreams come true on a daily basis. I used to be a dreamer, but New York made me a realist. I guess that's where I made the jump from dreaming the life to living the dream.

New York being the setting of films like "Serendipity" and "You've Got Mail," and the location of fantastical places like The Plaza and Central Park, you always have to be prepared for fortunate accidents to happen to you, because they do all the time.

Never ever dress down because you don't know who you're going to run into, what art gallery opening you're going to be suddenly invited to, or who's going to ask to meet up with you for drinks at a hip bar downtown.

The world on 12 avenues

When people said my world became wider when I moved to New York, they had no idea how wrong they were. The world has since become much smaller.

In a city 200 streets long and 12 avenues wide, you're bound to bump into people you've known, people you know or people you know of.

If you're lucky, it's Ethan Hawke, or an old friend you didn't know lived in New York. On an exceptionally unlucky day, it's an ex, or an irritating roommate you thought you left at the college dorm for good.

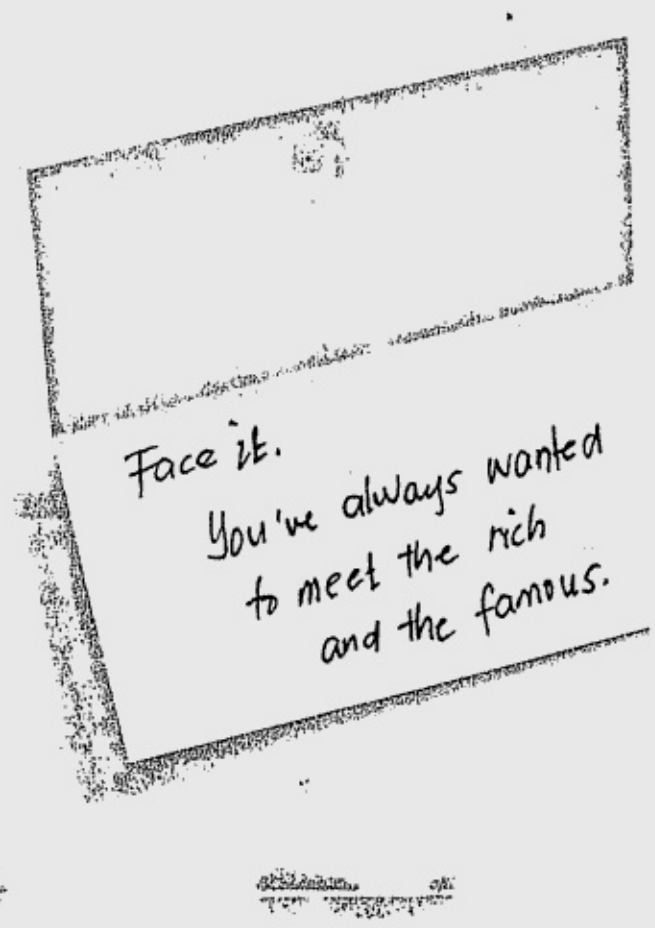
This city being at the crossroads of the world, it is possible to meet anyone and get introduced to everyone. No matter how many thousand Filipinos reside in New York City, you will meet them all. And they will all know you back, or at least know of you.

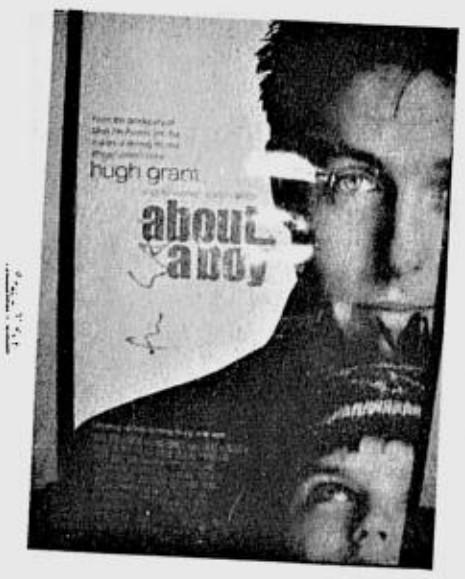
This just goes to show that people here are much more ready to introduce themselves, get introduced, and strike up conversations. "Socials" and "networking" are two very powerful words. And don't forget the lists! You have to be in the guest list, mailing list, listserv... every list!

Eight weeks' to eight minutes' notice

There's no other place than New York where your calendar gets full 60 days prior. "Let me look at my calendar" is always the first line you hear when you ask to meet someone, whether for official business or an intimate date. There's no place like it to make

HIGH/ D2





POSTER given at the advance screening that Grant later signed for the author

VIEW FROM THE ENTRANCE. The "Love Actually" World Premiere after-party last November became the author's ticket to more celebrity sightings, photo ops and a front row seat to a $10,000-per-plate reception at the Metropolitan Club in Central Park South. The invite was absolutely non-transferable.

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Magnolia Creamy Delights

FIRST Annual Tribeca Film Festival where Grant (seated next to Whoopi Goldberg on the right) speaks after Mandela, Clinton, Pataki and Bloomberg.

High on Hugh in New York City

AFTER-PARTY SOUVENIR: The official soundtrack of "Love Actually." The author loves it more than the film.

THE BIG STAR AND THE CAMEO MODEL. Grant and Claudia Schiffer at the after-party. Everyone wants a piece of Grant, forgetting that Liam Neeson, Rowan "Mr. Bean" Atkinson and Emma Thompson are there, too.

From page D1

last-minute arrangements, or what my *kuya* likes to call the "lightning gimmicks" that, among other things, keep me in New York. "Lightning gimmicks" rely a lot on the 24-hour subway and taxis, the restaurants that never close and the apartments that you and your friends each own.

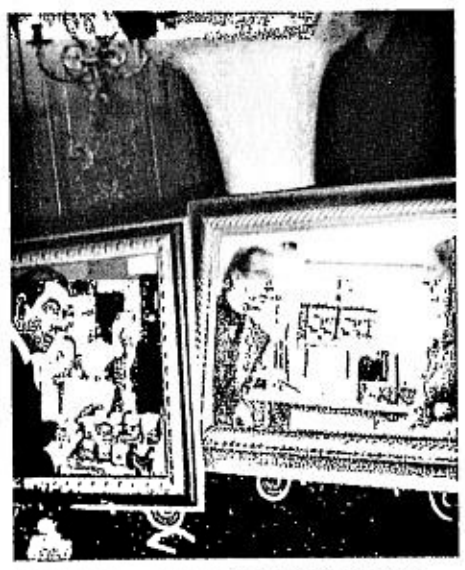
About a boy

When I helped out in Robert De Niro's First Annual Tribeca Film Festival in May 2002, my favorite Hugh Grant film was the opening premiere. The festival was De Niro's idea of bringing people back to the neighborhood of the World Trade Center after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks.

He brought filmmakers, films and audiences together to watch screenings, spend nights, and have meals at the many theaters, hotels and restaurants in Tribeca—the neighborhood that JFK Jr. and Scott Wolf shared.

During the opening ceremonies, De Niro had guests speak about the significance of a week-long festival that supported the businesses and families affected by the attacks: South Africa President Nelson Mandela, US President Bill Clinton, NY Gov. George Pataki, NY Mayor Mike Bloomberg, Kevin Spacey, Whoopi Goldberg and Hugh Grant.

Hugh, in his welcome speech, mentioned



SCENES from "Love Actually" framed for display. Supposedly his last film, most people believe it is his best. Good enough for retirement, according to the Vanity Fair May 2002 issue. The movie is slated to be shown in Manila in March.

that he had received many criticisms of how flippant and worthless an actor he was, based on the characters he had played. He hadn't agreed (with such criticisms) as much as he did at that moment in the midst of the other esteemed speakers.

That premiere was also my first red carpet experience in New York. It now seems like a long time ago, but these really are the kinds of things that happen in New York.

Manhattan moments

My surreal encounters and experiences, such as those with Hugh Grant, confirm that New York is the city of wakeful dreaming, fortunate accidents, random meetings and sudden engagements.

In two years, I have met more famous people than I can count, and heard Hugh Grant speak on five different occasions. Most cases were unintentional. Many times I just got lucky.

As for the rest, the credit goes to what most New Yorkers know as "New York moments."

Carissa Villacorta, 24, has been living in New York since January 2002. For questions or comments, email cvillacorta@mindspring.com.

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Retreat for couples

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

DEAR Tita Dulce,

I once read in your column about a follow-up retreat for couples who have already attended the Marriage Encounter. If I remember it right, that retreat was developed by Fr. Gabriel Calvo who also started that second retreat.

Do you know if there is another schedule for that retreat? My wife and I attended the Marriage Encounter and we would like to attend that one.

Thank you and God bless.

TONY

The retreat is called Marriage Retorno Retreat. Fr. Calvo calls it "The next step to that marriage encounter." It is a conjugal retreat, bible-based and Trinitarian in focus.

Retorno is a Spanish word meaning "to revisit, to evaluate, or to get back on the right track." For couples, it is an opportunity to check on where they are spiritually, not just as individuals but as couples.

During the retreat the word of God as written in the Bible will serve as the map of their lives. With God's grace, the couple will be able to discern and follow the will and plan of God.

Couples who have attended the retreat attest to the deepening of their relationship with God as couples. This retreat is open to all Me couples from any community, and they have to bring with them two bibles.

Just in case you don't have any yet, from the postmark of your letter the nearest where you can buy them is the bookstore of the Philippine Bible Society at 3961 Ramon Magsaysay Blvd., Sta. Mesa, Manila. Ask for the Catholic version Deutorocanomico. The price is P280.

The next scheduled Marriage Retorno Retreat is on Feb. 27-29, at Pacem Seminary, Sra. dela Paz Subd., Sumulong Highway, Antipolo City.

Retreat fee is P2,500. This MR Retreat will be led by Fr. Dave Clay. For more information, please call any of these numbers: 6307588, 6445081, 0918-9302060; 0920-9013639; 8972610; 7764413; 0927-2009018 or 0916-5730097.

Courted by two, in love with another

I'm graduating this year with honors, and looking forward to a bright future. Maybe what bothers me may not really be a problem, but I hope you can give me your comments.

Two young men are courting me. One is a professional, and the other is still a working student in another university. Both are very dignified and friendly.

However, the one who always occupies my thoughts is my classmate. He comes to school driving his car, and even brings me home, along with some other classmates. He is very charming, but of course he has not said or done anything that would show he is attracted to me.

During lunch I always try to be with him in our canteen, and we enjoy chatting, but never is there any word of affection, even when my heart beats fast.

The two who are courting me text me often, and one visits me on Sundays while the working student does so on Saturdays before he goes to his home province.

What should I do? How can I attract my classmate?

LINDA

When choosing between two or three, take the one who loves you most.

You are probably attracted to your classmate because you see him everyday. There is a saying that friendship is the best soil for the seed of love to germinate in. But then, he is probably more concentrated on his lessons now.

When he brings you home, not just you but some of your other classmates, that means he is thoughtful.

Consider the two really courting you. I gather they have not insisted on your answer, but are just keeping a warm relationship. If that young man who is already a professional continues to see you, just be a nice and charming young lady.

The suitor who is still in school still has problems to solve in his life, and you might even help him face realities by just inspiring him to concentrate on his studies, and to stop seeing you. If he really loves you, he will not cease being there on Saturdays.

As to your question on how to attract your classmate... You are doing everything, being there, exchanging conversations, and yet nothing has come up. So, better forget him. You know, you have to have a man chase you first before you can catch him.

So, *hija*, just live each day to the fullest now, and since you will graduate with honors, concentrate on what you can do in the future.. Hope and pray for the best.

E-mail titadulce@netscape.net or send letters to P.O. Box 2353, Makati CPO 1263 Makati City, or PDI, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets Makati City

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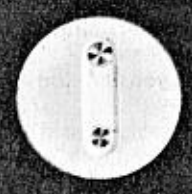

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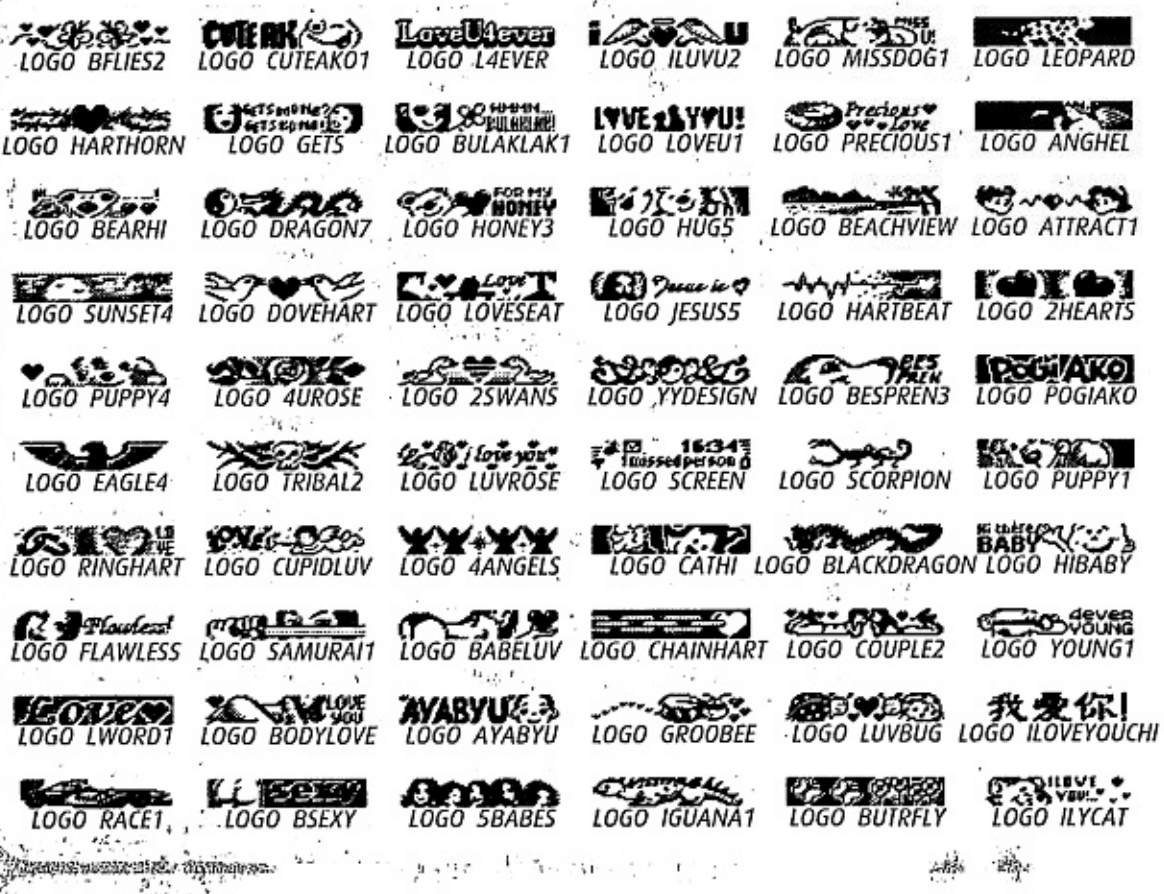

Ringtones

RINGTONES	ARTIST/COMPOSER	KEYWORDS
Hey Ya	Outkast	TONE HEYYA
Bakit Papa	Sexbomb	TONE BAKITPAPA
Otso-otso	Bayani Agbayani	TONE OTSO
It Might Be You	Stephen Bishop	TONE MYTBU
214	Rivermaya	TONE 214
Toyang	Eraserheads	TONE TOYANG
Mr. Suave	Parokya Ni Edgar	TONE MRSUAVE
Ulan	Rivermaya	TONE ULAN
Forever's Not Enough	Sarah Geronimo	TONE 4EVERSNOT
Toxic	Britney Spears	TONE TOXIC
The Voice Within	Christina Agullera	TONE VOICEW
If You Come To Me	Atomic Kitten	TONE IFUCOME
I Say A Little Prayer	My Bestfriend's Wedding	TONE SAYALIL
Guilty	Blue	TONE GUILTY
Got To Believe In Magic	David Pomeranz	TONE INMAGIC
Unwell	Matchbox 20	TONE UNWELL
Feeling This	Blink 182	TONE FEELINGT1
Sexed Up	Robbie Williams	TONE SEXED
Turn Me On	Kevin Lyttle	TONE TURNME
Dawson's Geek	Busted	TONE DAWSONG
Kanlungan	Noel Cabangon	TONE KANLUNGAN
Go West	Pet Shop Boys	TONE GOWEST
Happy	Rolling Stones	TONE HAPPY
Let Me Be The One	Mandy Moore	TONE LETMEBE
Only Heart	John Mayer	TONE ONLYHEART
Let Her Down Easy	Ronan Keating	TONE LETHER
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NEWLYWEDS Noel Zosa and Ann Catherine Poblete

Weddings

WITH PARENTS Dr. and Ms Noli Zosa and Mr. and Ms Catalino Poblete

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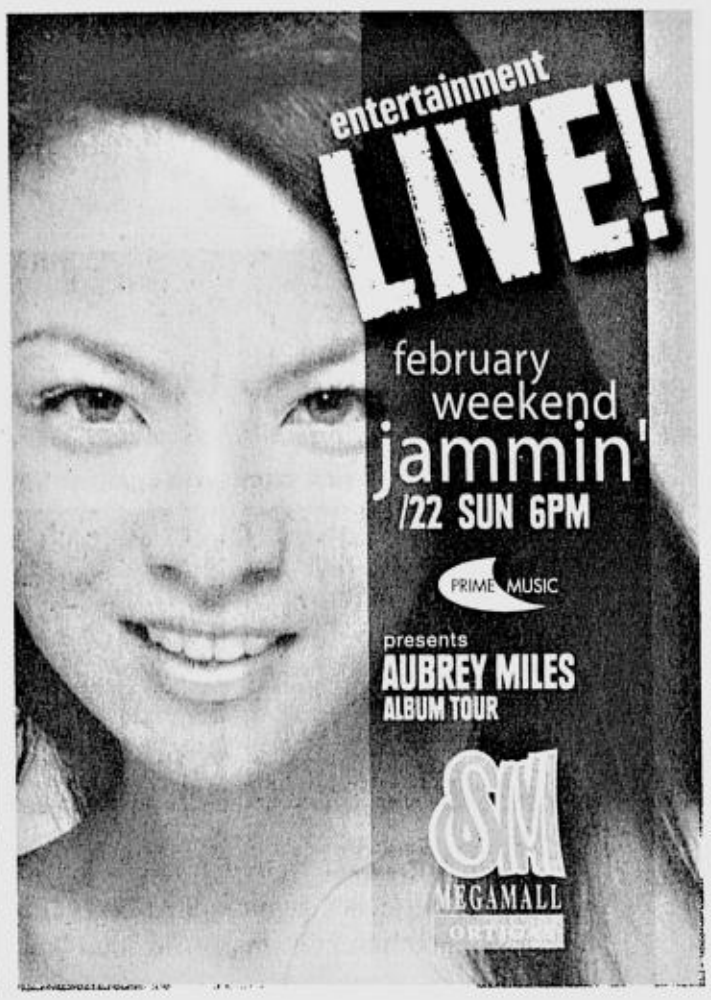


ZOSA-POBLETE NUPTIALS

A wedding in historic Kawit

NOEL Francisco Zosa of California, United States, and Ann Catherine Poblete of Makati City, exchanged vows Dec. 27, 2003 at the Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Kawit, Cavite.

He is the son of Dr. Noli Zosa, a pediatrician in Los Angeles, California, and Nena Zosa, a businesswoman. She is the daughter of Catalino and Anita Poblete, who are both in the real estate business.

Zosa is currently on the last year of his course in Oriental Medicine in California, while Poblete studied medicine at the University of the East-Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Medical Center and completed her internship at the Makati Medical Center.

Officiating priests were the University of Santo Tomas rectors. The choir was the UST Singers, with Maria Holm of Los Angeles as special guest soloist.

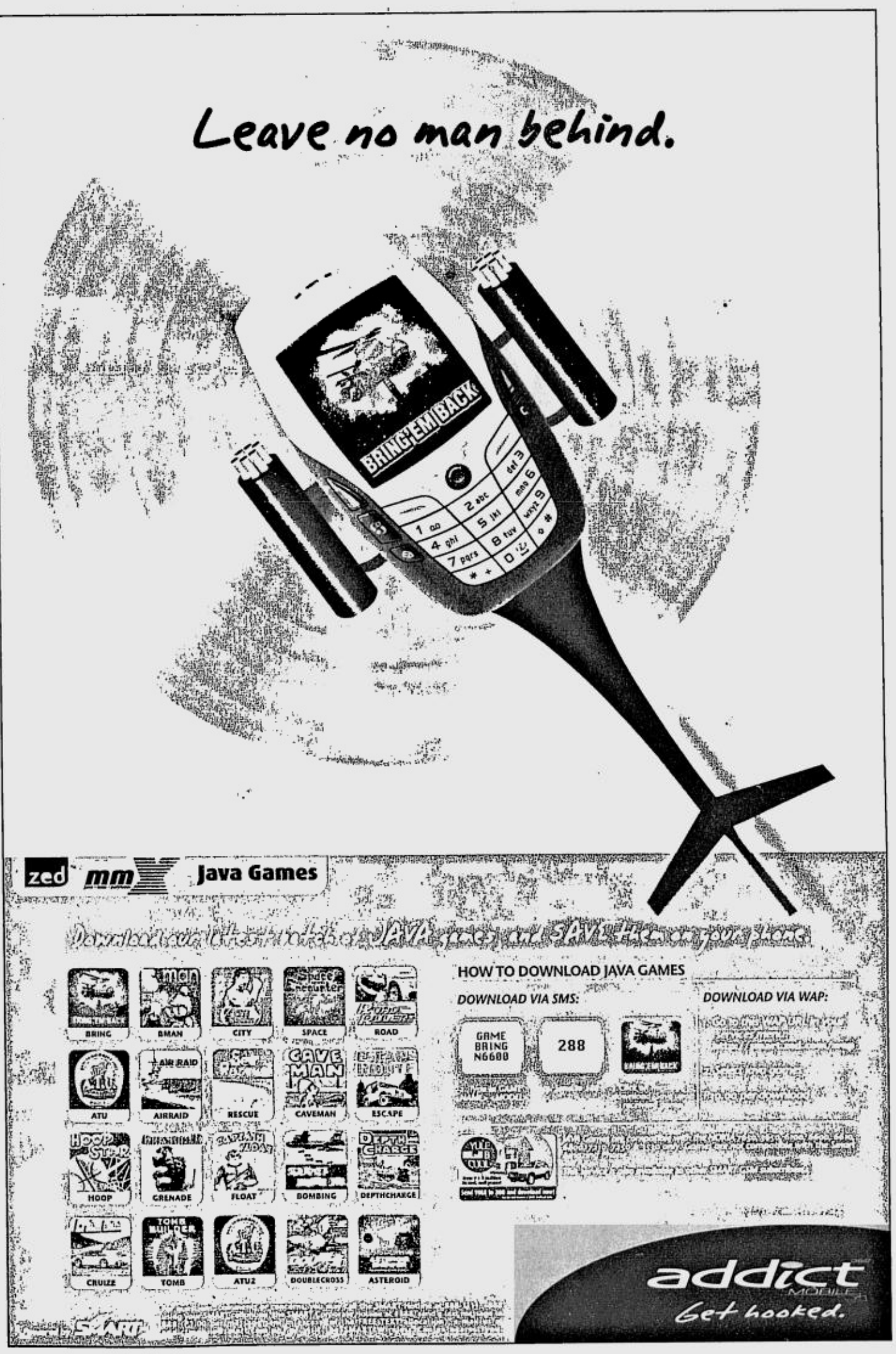
Reception was held at the Island Cove Resort and Leisure Park in Kawit, Cavite.

The bride's gown and the groom's outfit were designed by Ole Morabe. Photographer/videographer was Jun Seculles.

WITH THE PRINCIPAL SPONSORS: (front row) Dr. Agnes Remulla, Ida Joseph, Dr. Eileen Manalo, Ofelia Dasher, lawyers Antero Sison and Sigfrid Fortun, Capt. Andres Malbas, Dr. Amadeo Diego; (back row) Dr. Clarita Odvina, Dr. Estrella Poblete, Dr. Heidi Remulla, Dr. Rafael Vasquez, Dr. Jesus Poblete and Dr. Honesto Poblete

WITH THE SECONDARY SPONSORS: flower girls Victoria Manalo, Samantha Shah, Roxanne Remulla, Katherine Remulla, Rosanna Remulla, Andrea Remulla, Maui Shah, Bianca Catibayan; usherette Mesa Mar, usher Andrew Mar, ring bearer Alex Mar, Bible bearer River Joseph, coin bearer Jaime Oposa, veil—Richard Joseph and Alma Oposa, cord—Thirdie Icasas and Gianina Fortun, and candle—Leo Aguirre and Jacinta Remulla

WITH the UST Rectors



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MALIT-TRINIDAD

Placido R. Malit Jr., son of **Placido Sr.** and **Rosita Malit**, married **Janet Trinidad**, daughter of **Pedro** and **Lilia Trinidad**, at the Divine Mercy Parish Church in Floridablanca, Pampanga. Fr. **Jerry Cala**, OSJ; Fr. **Maximo Sevilla Jr.**, OSJ; and Fr. **Joaquin Sillonar**, OSJ, officiated the wedding. Reception followed at Resort Bleu, Floridablanca.

The groom is a seaman of Super Ferry MV Olom while the bride is a parish secretary of Santuario de San Jose, Greenhills.

Milestones

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SAQUING-SICAT

Chardin Joseph Leopoldo "Jophel" Saquing II exchanged marriage vows with **May Sicat** on Dec. 28 at St. Dominic's Cathedral, Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya, in a Eucharistic celebration presided over by **Ramón Villena**, DD, bishop of the Diocese of Bayombong. Fr. **Gerry Bouckaert**, CICM, and Fr. **Fred Mombula**, CICM, concelebrated.

Jophel is the second son of Dr. **Leopoldo** and **Aurora Saquing** of Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya. May is the eldest daughter of **Primo** and **Mercedita Sicat** of Solano, Nueva Vizcaya.

GACAD-SANTOS

Mike Gacad, son of **Maximo** and **Josephine Gacad**, tied the knot recently with **Ana Marie Santos**, daughter of **Edmund** and **Therese Santos**, at St. Joseph's the Worker Church, Pacdal, Baguio City.

LEE-TONG

Henson Lawrence Lee, son of **Henry** and **Lucy Lee-Chun**, will marry **Katrina Tong**, daughter of **Julian** and **Vicky Tong** today, at Christ the King Parish in Greenmeadows, QC.

The bride will wear a white duchess satin column gown topped with a floor-length frosted silk see-through coat, which also serves as a train embellished with silver and white sugar and caviar beads. It was designed and executed by couturier **Eddie Baddeo**, who also did the entourage's ensemble in yellow and powder-blue motif.

KING-HUANG

Sherwin King, son of Mr. and Ms **Henry King**, married **Carla Huang**, daughter of Mr. and Ms **Keng Teck Huang**, on Jan. 18. The ceremony and reception were held at the New World Renaissance Hotel Grand Ballroom. The bridal gown was designed by **Mila Santiago-de Leon**.

MURAKAMI DEBUT

Haruko Uy Murakami, daughter of **Rosita U. Murakami**, celebrated her 18th birthday on Feb. 13 at the Grand Ballroom of the Grand Regal Hotel, Davao City. **Tata S. Soriano** of Heavens Gift was debut coordinator. **Randy Resos** was master of ceremonies.

PACHECO DEBUT

Ma. Rosanna Angela E. Pacheco, a freshman Education student at De La Salle University, turned 18 on Feb. 12. She was be honored with a dinner-dance by her parents, **Antonio "Tony" Pacheco** and **Rosario "Charrie" Enriquez-Pacheco**, at the Manila Polo Club on Feb. 15. The debutante wore a gown designed by **Joanne Labiaga**.

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SM Megamall Atrium, 10am
SM City Cebu Entertainment Plaza, 10am
The Megastrip, 7pm
Fiesta Strip, 7pm

INQUIRER WAVE 93.1 WROCK EPSON ASTROPLUS SM MEGAMALL SM CEBU Megastrip

Screening Schedule for February 18

SM Megamall Cinema 7		SM Manila Cinema 7		SM Southmall Cinema 6		SM Cebu Cinema 4	
Master & Commander (PG)	12:00nn	Master & Commander (PG)	11:25am	Seabiscuit (GP)	12:00nn	Mystic River (R)	11:30am
Lord of the Rings 3 (PG)	2:30pm	Mystic River (R)	2:25pm	Mystic River (R)	2:45pm	Lord of the Rings 3 (PG)	2:00pm
Mystic River (R)	5:00pm	Lord of the Rings 3 (PG)	5:00pm	Master & Commander (PG)	5:30pm	Lord of the Rings 3 (PG)	5:25pm
Master & Commander (PG)	8:45pm	Master & Commander (PG)	8:30pm	Seabiscuit (GP)	8:30pm	Master & Commander (PG)	9:30pm

The 76th Academy Awards

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March 29, 2004
9:00 am – 4:00 pm
Balay Kalinaw, Guerrero corner Dagohoy St. U.P. Diliman Campus
Ticket Price P200 (workshop, meals, and certificate)
(Open to medical practitioners, college students, caregivers, parents, and educators)

For reservations and inquiries, call 922-6370

Pfizer Kythe Thu Asia Foundation

SANTOS-ROQUE

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CANCERAN-SANTOS

Alvin Canceran, son of **Fructuoso** and **Nydia Canceran**, exchanged vows with **Anna Marie Santos**, daughter of **Eduardo** and **Sonia Santos**, Dec. 29 in ceremonies at the Puerta Real Gardens, Intramuros, Manila. The bride wore a duchess satin gown embellished with rainbow-colored Swarovski crystals from Wedding Expressions.

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Wedding package for every budget

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The package includes a wedding cake, one round of iced tea or softdrink, decorated cage and doves, floral centerpieces and décor, and the option to avail of a chauffeur-driven bridal car with flower arrangement. Banquets are prepared for 100 persons, and can be a sit-down breakfast, lunch or dinner; buffet or lauriat. The hotel can also provide hosts and entertainers when requested.

Souvenir items, toast for the couple, Sulo wedding guest book with pen and flaming-sword ceremony are included in the package. The newlyweds also get an overnight accommodation in the hotel with complimentary drink of the month at the Diwata Bar, American breakfast for two, a bottle of wine in the room, use of swimming pool and a gift certificate for an overnight stay on their first wedding anniversary.

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NY-based couple comes home for wedding

CEBU CEBU

Jaime Picornell

ONE of the grandest weddings of the season was that of pretty **Marie Faye "Pinkie" Go**, daughter of **Philip** and **Nenita Go**, to **Ernest Salas**. He is the son of **Carmelita Rodriguez Salas**, currently the Philippine ambassador to the Czech Republic, and the late **Rafael Salas**.

If one recalls correctly, Rafael Salas served as executive secretary in the Cabinet of President Marcos when he was elected in 1965. A bachelor at that time, Paeng met **Menchu Rodriguez** when he came here to crown Miss Cebu City. They were married in 1967.

Paeng and Menchu moved to New York where they raised their two sons—**Ernest** and **Rafael Jr.**—when Mr. Salas became director of the United Nations Population Fund. Later he set an even more brilliant record in the UN. as its deputy secretary-general.

Upon his death, Menchu and her two sons continued to reside in the United States. While Rafael Jr. continues to pursue his university studies, Ernest is vice president (environmental insurance department) of the Willis Major Insurance Brokerage firm in NYC.

Menchu's diplomatic assignment in Prague has proven to be fortuitous. For one thing, every time she returns to the Philippines, she visits Cebu. One would think that with Cebu society being so small and quite close, she'd meet Philip and Nenita Go here. But the story now becomes circuitous.

Prague visit

Philip's brother, **Gilbert Go**, was appointed some years back as honorary consul of the Czech Republic, based in Davao. He and Philip went to Prague once and paid a call on Menchu. Philip got Ernest's address and phone number, which came in handy when he and Nenita decided to visit their three daughters in New York a couple of years later.

Girlie Go married **Allen Kang** and **Hope Go, Christopher Williams**. Pinkie remained single. After graduating (economics) from Ateneo de Manila University, she went to the Parsons School of Design in New York. She and Ernest hit it off almost immediately. They got engaged last year and decided they'd get married where they both had their roots—Cebu.

The city was abuzz with the love story. With both Ernest and Pinkie busy in New York, and Menchu deep in her diplomatic obligations in Prague, her best friends **Teresing Mendezona** and **Annie Aboitiz** stepped in to help with the Cebu arrangements. There was some hilarity when they paid that official call on Philip and Nenita to ask for Pinkie's hand.

Family friend officiates

The Salas-Go wedding took place on a beautiful afternoon in January in the flower-decked Sacred Heart parish. A dear friend of the Go family, Fr. **Antonio Ledesma**, came from Iloilo to officiate in the nuptial Mass.

Sen. **Ramon Magsaysay** and his wife **Marilou** (a cousin of Menchu) came to head the panel of sponsors that also included **Benjamin Go, Arsenio Yulo, Albiño Gothong, Enrique Go**, Mesdames **Annabelle Osmeña Aboitiz, Marie Antoinette Osmeña, Lily Ngo Chua, Margarita Onglatco, Nonila Uy** and **Mila Antunez Wales**.

The bride's sisters Girlie and Hope were matrons of honor while their little daughters **Marielle Kang** and **Marian Williams** were flower girls. **Papo Osmeña**, Ernest's cousin, was best man. The reception after the rites was held at the Cebu Grand Convention Center and was attended by Cebu's prominent families and several guests from abroad.

Camelot setting

Chilled Rioja white wine and exquisite canapes were served in the foyer, where everyone had a chance to exchange pleasantries. At 7 p.m., the doors of the grand hall were opened on a cue from Teresing M. It was a setting out of Camelot, with garlands of greenery forming tent frames, and masses of white orchids dripping from the ceiling.

Menchu, looking very pretty in shimmering silvery blue, was happy that all her four elder sisters were present on this beautiful and memorable day. The eldest, **Lolly Rodriguez Jayme**, resides in Cebu and was seated with **Rosa Maria Garcia** and **Magnolia Antonino**.

Tonette Rodriguez Osmeña, who lives in San Francisco and has been gone from Cebu for many years, was happy to be home. She was wearing a magnificent necklace of cascading diamonds given to her 25 years ago by her late parents, **Luis Rodriguez** and **Epifania Jakosalem Rodriguez**.

Myrna Rodriguez Adad came from Las Vegas where she and husband **Tito Adad** have been residing all these years. She is a frequent visitor here and friends are eager to host her as she has the funniest stories to tell. An excellent mimic, she is pretty enough to be mistaken for a film star. At the wedding she was seated with another beauty—**Margaret Huber**, Canada's High Commissioner to Pakistan.

Not so frequently seen in Cebu is **Joy Rodriguez Ramas**, who makes her home in West Virginia with her husband Dr. **Mario Ramas**, also from a very prominent Cebu family. They both came for this happy reunion, to renew friendships, meet more and more family members. Joy had a great time when the dancing started.

PHILIP and Nenita Go

PINKIE and Ernest Salas

This wedding inspired a round of parties before and after. Philip and Nenita Go hosted the *despedida de soltera* at their home in Banawa; Menchu had a party where the two families met in the home of Luis and Annie Aboitiz, where she stayed. And, a week after the wedding, **Boboy** and **Irma Atillo** threw a party at the penthouse of their F3 building in Mactan.

MENCHU Rodriguez Salas (center) with Rosebud Sala and cousin Amelia Castillo LaO

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

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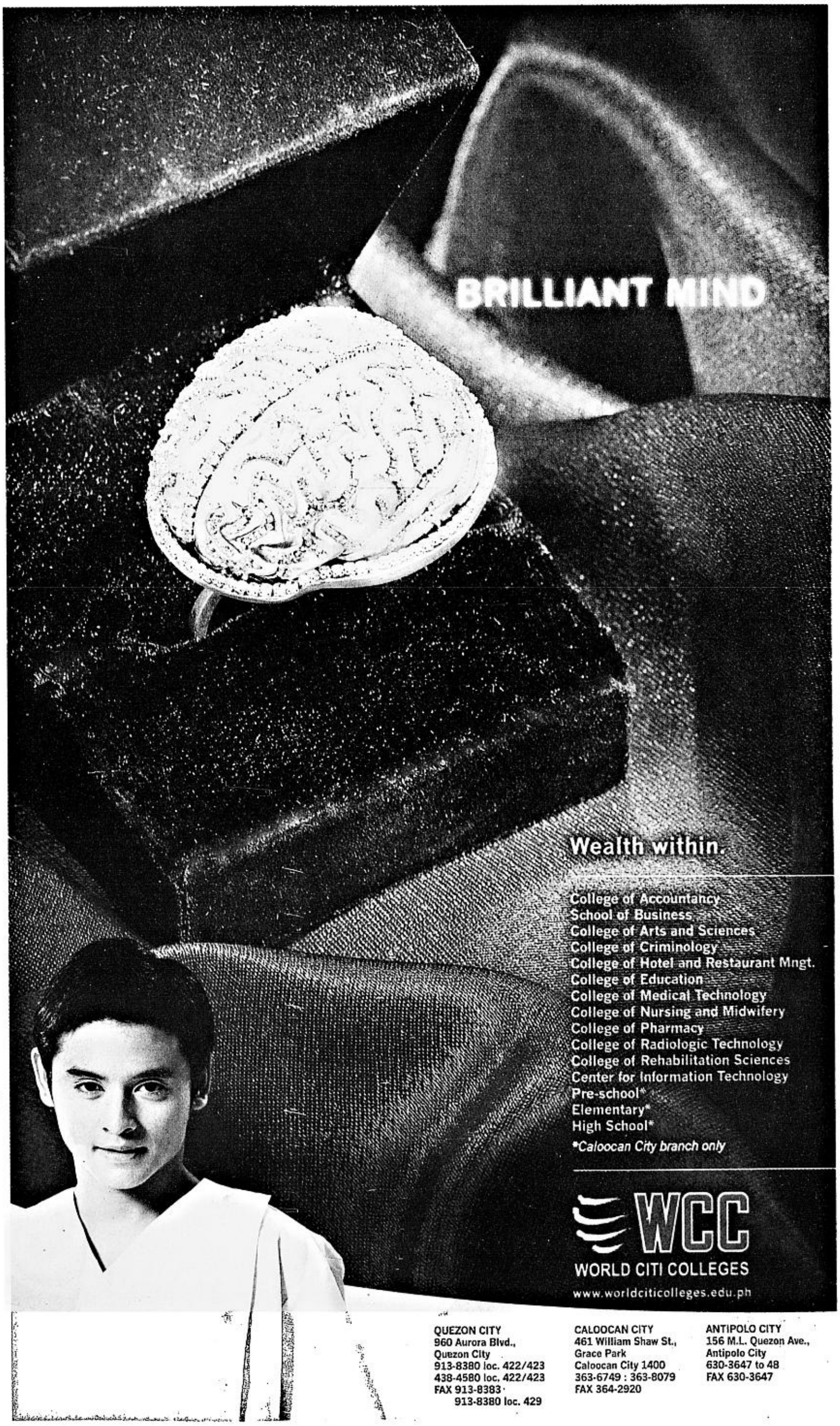

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- JAVA-ready
- GPRS-capable
- 40 Polyphonic Tones

Nokia 3100
₱10,590
- 4,096 Color Display
- MMS-capable
- JAVA-ready
- Polyphonic Tones

Panasonic G50
₱8,990
- 4,096 Colors
- Super Mini (weighs 75g)
- Polyphonic Tones
- WAP/EMS

Nokia 1100
₱6,390
- Animated Screen Saver
- Text Messaging with Pictures and Sounds
- Built-in Flashlight

Sony Ericsson T100
₱4,490
- Text Messaging with Pictures and Sounds
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The return of the cowboy

T'NT TRENDS & TRENDINGS

Anton San Diego

HOT off the press—Vanity Fair's Hollywood Issue March 2004. This is one of the most-awaited issues of any magazine in the world. The mag features 13 (who said that was an unlucky number?) women on the cover, namely Julianne Moore, Jennifer Connelly, Gwyneth Paltrow, Naomi Watts, Salma Hayek, Jennifer Aniston, Kirsten Dunst, Diane Lane, Lucy Liu, Hilary Swank, Alison Lohman, Scarlett Johansson and Maggie Gyllenhaal.

The issue pays homage to glamour, beauty and motherhood. So how did Paltrow and Aniston act when they saw each other? Apparently, it never happened. There were two separate shoots. Brad must have been happy!

The look of the moment—Continental cowboy! Easily one of my favorite put-ons (the other is Dolce e Gabbana's Beckham look) and one of the hottest trends today. International designers, especially Tom Ford of Gucci in his second-to-the-last collection, are paying tribute to the continental cowboy.

Here's what to wear: Boots, aviator glasses, huge buckled belts, pearl buttons and jeans.

"This collection is a hybrid of Portofino, Saint Tropez and Texas. It was based a lot on my personal style, which started out a little cowboy and has become more and more European," Ford says.

Where to get this look here? Tyler has great cowboy shirts, Gucci and YSL have great belts, and Ray-ban's there for the aviator glasses.

HOT, hot shoes—The Lucite pumps

Must-have CD—Harry Connick Jr.'s "Only You." If you love to listen to new renditions of old classics, then this is the CD for you.

Vocalist, pianist, composer, arranger, orchestrator and actor **Harry Connick** has a gem of a new album, which contains such '50s classics as "More," "The Very Thought of You," "For Once in My Life" and "Only You," to name a few.

And, of course, it's done by one of the most beautiful, heartfelt voices around. Connick was the first performer of our era to bring back the big band sound with his first hit, "It Had To Be You," the theme from "Sleepless in Seattle."

It's been quite a while since I have been excited about a CD, and this one is it! Available at Music One or your favorite CD store.

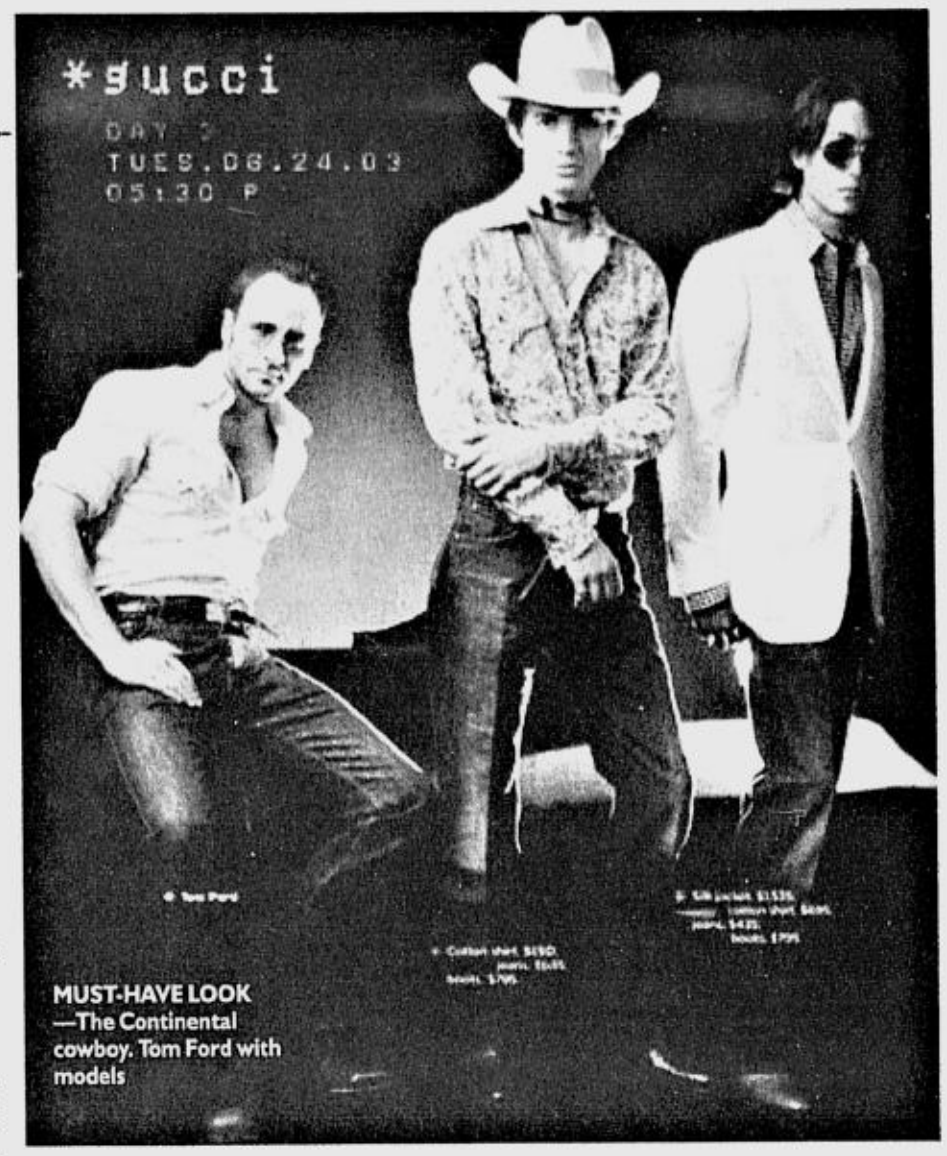
Hot, hot shoes—the Lucite pumps. If you think about it, you really can't blame the former First Lady for amassing all those shoes. Stylish women know that they can't have enough shoes!

So here's something to add to your collection. Summer's hottest look is the Lucite shoes (think transparent). It's time to get your feet out of hibernation and show them around. But first, make sure they are pretty!

A sparkling combination. A friend of mine who just came back from Paris couldn't help but gush at the new Bacarrat flagship store, a mansion converted into a chic shop by renowned architect/designer **Philippe Starck.**

From the photographs I've seen, the place does look modern, elegant and

THE RETURN/ F3



MUST-HAVE LOOK —The Continental cowboy. Tom Ford with models

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Feb. 21 - 11am, 3pm, 5pm, 7pm
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Feb. 27 - 11am, 3pm, 6pm
Feb. 28 - 11am, 3pm, 6pm
Feb. 29 - 11am, 3pm, 6pm

AYALA CENTER
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Mar. 6 - 11am, 3pm, 5pm, 7pm
Mar. 7 - 11:30am, 3pm, 6:30pm

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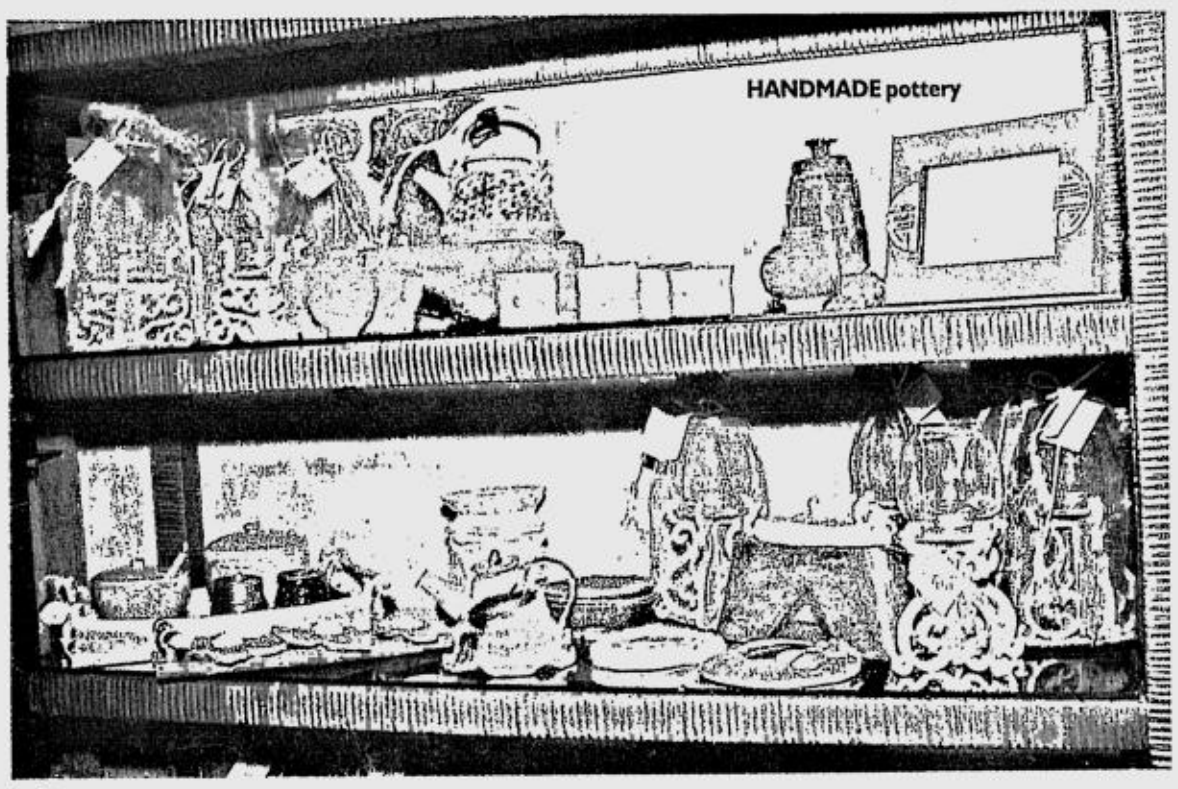
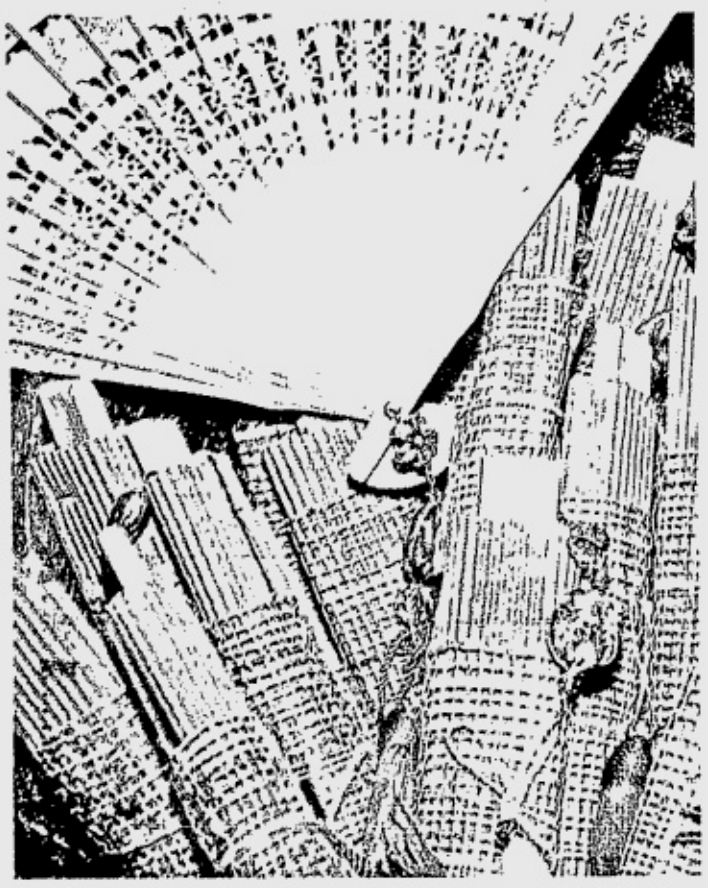


CATHY Santamaria-Escano

Housing that Gypsy wanderer in you


SANDALWOOD fans with tassel and bead details

Text and photos by Joanne Zapanta-Andrada
Contributor

FOR many years, Cathy Santamaria-Escano was known as the daughter of the divinely beautiful pianist Ingrid Santamaria and as the sister of basketball player Joey, ex-Pitoy Moreno model Crispy and De La Salle University whiz Cecille.

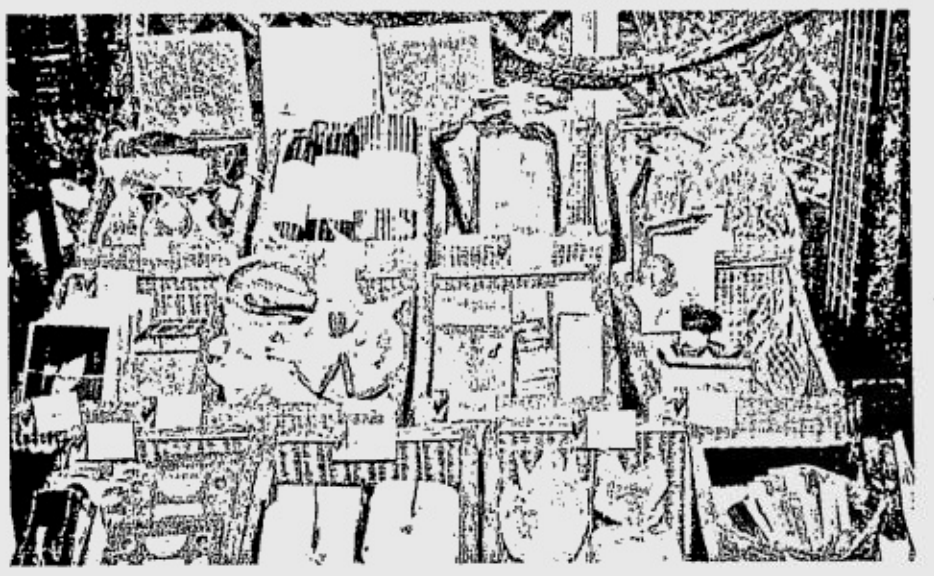
A former Moreno model herself, Escano knew she had a special talent as well as the desire to create beauty in her surroundings. It took several years for the statuesque 30-something to venture into the entrepreneurial field. The result is a warm and inviting home furnishing store, Atillo.

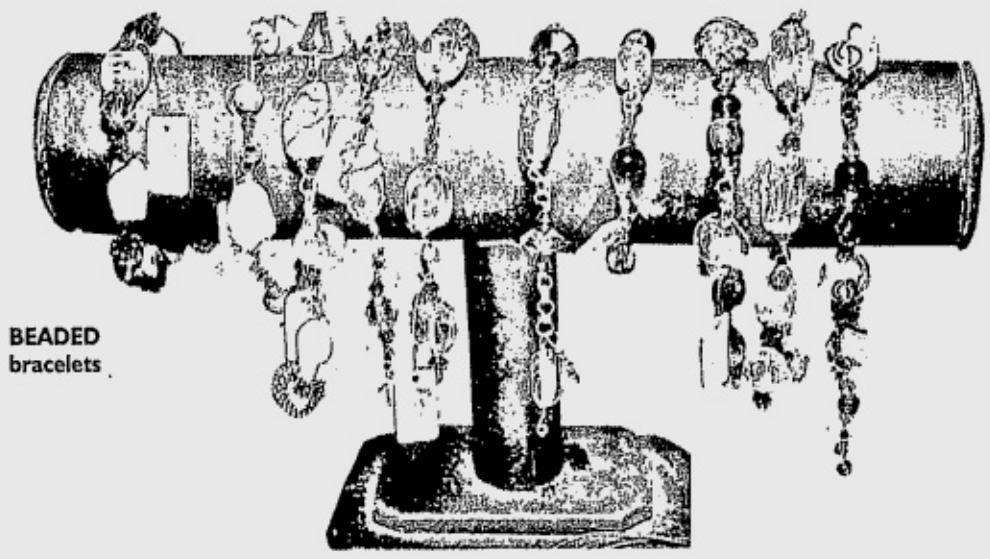
The name, says Escano, is what Gypsy's call the big wooden rod and sack that carries all their belongings. She says she is fascinated by how Gypsies wander from one place to another bringing with them all that they own.

Atillo, the store, carries a wide array of colorful items—from Indonesian holders and kitchen utensils, sandalwood fans and handmade pottery, to handmade paper and aromatherapy sets. Prices, as many shoppers find out to their surprise, are reasonable.

"My items are not only beautiful, they are functional as well," Escano says. "When it comes to creating a beautiful environment for your home, the options are endless!"

Atillo is at 178 Mabini cor. Ortega Sts., San Juan City.


A GIFT display


BEADED bracelets

WHIMSICAL bags

Hardware store opens 18th branch

SM president Teresita Sy-Coson and Ace Hardware's Johnny Cobankiat (far right) with Ayala Land executives: operations supervisor AC Ocampo, division manager Myrna Fernandez, AVP Rowena Tomeldan and division manager Francis Roxas

ACE Hardware Phils. AVP for merchandising Abot Tanganco, Rockford Marketing's Benzon Lim and Rodd Eddy of Osram Phils.

ACE Hardware opened recently in Greenbelt 1 its 18th store in the Philippines.

Like the others, the new store offers things DIY (do-it-yourself) enthusiasts need—hardware, hand and power tools, electrical and plumbing supplies, lawn and garden supplies, cleaning supplies, lead-free paint.

The chain is part of the Ace Hardware group started in 1924 in Chicago. It now has over 5,100 stores in 50 states in the United States and 62 countries.

The opening of the new store coincided with the Chinese New Year and featured a simple ribbon-cutting ceremony followed by a lion dance.

Ace Hardware president Johnny Cobankiat and SM president Tessie Sy-Coson welcomed the guests.

Shoppers at the new Ace outlet will have a chance to win one of two Yamaha motorbikes. Every P300 purchase at Ace Greenbelt 1 entitles customer to a raffle coupon. The promotion is ongoing until Feb. 29. Raffle draw will be on March 8.

Ace Hardware stores are also at SM Cubao; SM Supermalls—SM City North-Edsa, SM Megamall, SM Southmall, SM City Fairview, SM City Bacoor, SM City Manila, SM Supercenter Sucat and SM City Bicutan; SM City Cebu, SM City Iloilo, SM City Davao, SM City Cagayan de Oro, SM City Pampanga, SM City Lucena, SM City Baguio and SM City Marilao.

AT THE ribbon-cutting: Aida Cobankiat, Ayala Land Corp. AVP Rowena Tomeldan, Felicidad Sy, Jovito Ong, Harry Ong and Robert Lee

BLACK & Decker's commercial manager Anthony Allarey and Arlyn Onte

HCG project sales manager Le Ming Fen and mass merchandising manager Nina Bautista

HOT off the press—Vanity Fair's Hollywood Issue March 2004

The return of the cowboy

From page F1

intriguing. The store houses a museum, retail store and a restaurant. It is located at 11 Place des Etats-Unis, 75116 Paris.

And the last word... I would like to express my bit of homage to **Joe Salazar.** His untimely death has left a huge void in the fashion industry. Those who knew him will certainly miss his creative genius, unmatched talent and friendship.

I first met Joe three years ago through our common friend **Mons Tantoco.** We were doing our inaugural issue of Philippine Tatler, and in that issue, Joe dressed **Jackie Ejercito Lopez.**

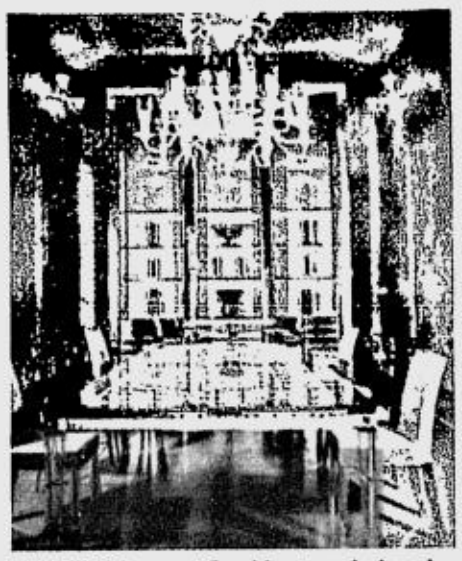
We worked together on more than 15 other issues, the last one of which was November 2003 with **Nikki Prieto Teodoro** on the cover.

In all the pictorials, Joe was always there, dressing the personalities, helping the stylists, sharing a laugh or anecdote. He would also give the gowns he made to the personalities. And after every issue came out, he would always call to say a heartfelt thank you.

The fashion world may be seen as a life of lights and shadows, but Joe was exemplary. Besides his immense talent, he was generous, a gentle soul, a real person, an example of a true gentleman.

To those whose lives you touched and who were privileged to have known you, you were truly a great person, Joe. You made a difference in all of us. We will miss you.

E-mail the author at antonsd@philtatler.com



THE NEW Bacarrat flagship store designed by Philippe Starck

All about 'the touch'

THE VALUE of touch in a baby's development is discussed in the latest issue of Baby Magazine.

On the cover of the monthly guide for new parents is Sofia Flowers, winner of P500,000 from the Huggies Diapers Happy Baby Hunt.

The article "A Touch of Love, a Touch of Life" reports that "science has acknowledged the importance of touch to humans, especially babies and children."

In the same issue, educator Marita Villafuerte discusses how love can actually boost a child's development while Mayang Sison-Pascual talks about creating a pleasurable partnership.

Dr. Rebecca Singson gives tips in "A Happier, Healthier You." Clinical psychologist Teresa Gustilo-Villasor talks about dealing with an angry child and explains the causes of anger in children.

Dr. Joy Ty-Sy discusses how vaccine make children safer and healthier.

The current Baby Magazine issue has its regular fashion spread, recipe and *baon* tips, parenting tips, and pediatric dentistry. It is available in all National Bookstore branches, SM Baby Company sections, and Baby & Co, boutiques, among others. For subscriptions, call 7293655 to 56.

MUST-HAVE CD —Harry Connick Jr.'s "Only You"

Check out Cathy Santamaria-Escano's Atillo on page F2

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Feng Shui says that the year 2004 is not good for those born under the Zodiac Signs of the Monkey, Tiger, Snake and Pig. To avoid or vanish misfortune, those concerned should have Lucky Charms of Snake and Dragon. Lucky Charm Rat will help them to acquire fortune.

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Ibanag title for book on Our Lady of Piat

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

THE IBANAG-SPEAKING people of Cagayan Valley call their patroness *Yena Tam Ngamin,* which means "Mother of Us All."

Roberto Cannu Caballero, who is from Tuguegarao, has written the book "Yena Tam Ngamin: The Miraculous Brown Madonna of Cagayan Valley." The author, son of Papal Awardee Conching Cannu Caballero, speaks Ibanag and Itawes (the language spoken in Piat town where the Virgin is enthroned in the magnificent Basilica Minore dedicated to her).

In his research, Bobby Caballero discovered that Cagayan Valley was the first center of Catholicism in northern Luzon. Immediately after the founding of Manila in 1571, Juan Salcedo journeyed to Cagayan Valley paving the way for the establishment of Nueva Segovia or Lal-loc, the seat of church and government beyond Manila.

Bobby used John Teddy Mhelan's magnificent book, "The Hispanization of the Philippines, Spanish Aims and Responses," The University of Wisconsin Press, 1965, and the book of Fr. Pedro V. Salgado, OP, "Cagayan Valley and Eastern Cordillera 1581-1898" and a recent paper by Fr. Eladio Neira, OP, "Our Lady of Piat and the Cagayan Valley", June 25, 2003.

Lady of Piat's miracles

The name Piat is from the word *piya* meaning goodness and sweetness, according to Dominican historian Fr. Eladio Neira, OP. But most Ibanags recognize "napiya," which means good and in order.

Called Our Lady of the Visitation of Piat, the image's first miracles were manifested by *amor seco* clinging to the hemline of her vestment. Sacristans would recount how they would find *amor seco* on the Virgin's dress. They concluded that she left her throne to visit the sick and ask her Son to intercede in their cure.

The image shows the Virgin holding a handkerchief believed used to wipe away the tears and the pains of those she visited. Archbishop Diosdado Talamayan explains that her title is derived from Our Lady's visit to her cousin Elizabeth.

Another early miracle attributed to her was the control of the floods in Chico River.

Our Lady of Piat church doesn't face the town that gave it its name, but the Itawes towns of Tuao and Rizal. The story goes that the Our Lady of Piat wanted to comfort the people of Tuao who felt very bad when her image was transferred to Piat.

Papal blessing

When Archbishop Talamayan joined the "ad limina" visit to Rome last year, he asked the Holy Father to bless the Quadricentennial celebration of the arrival of Our Lady from Macau in 1604.

As part of the celebration in June, the pilgrim image of the Our Lady of Piat is visiting the different places where she is venerated. They are the diocese of Bayombong; diocese of Ilagan, Isabela; Tabuk, Kalinga Apayao; then the different towns of Cagayan. The coffee-table book will be launched on June 22 in Piat.

ARCHBISHOP Diosdado Talamayan in private audience with Pope John Paul II on Oct. 27, 2003

The celebration of the Golden Jubilee of the canonical coronation of Our Lady will be held on June 21 in Tuguegarao. The Heritage Museum will be opened on June 22 in Piat. It will display house vestments, jewels and crowns of the Our Lady of Piat. Forty bishops and archbishops are expected to attend, together with the Papal Nuncio.

Eyes of Medjugorje

Alice Padlan of Arpex Travel is convinced that conversions happen in Medjugorje. Those who go there find their lives changed. They certainly become close to God. Since March is a very cold month in Medjugorje, the pilgrimage has been moved to June 21, just in time for the 23rd anniversary of the first apparition of Our Lady to the four visionaries.

"Climbing the Medjugorje hill, reciting the rosary, seeking the way to the peak, they lift themselves up into the heights and change. It is difficult to remain indifferent here," writes Fr. Mario Knezovic, parish priest of St. James Church in Medjugorje. "In this shrine, for 23 years now, pilgrims meet God face-to-face, eye-to-eye. It happens in a special way in the confessional. Here, they leave their past, reject the old man and put on the new man. In the confessional, they leave darkness and enter into the space of light, which is visible in every eye. This is why it is so fitting to call Medjugorje 'the confessional of the world'.

"The springtime of life that Our Lady is talking about in the message of April 25th, can be felt here more than anywhere else," continues his Internet letter. "This is why we can say that—in Medjugorje—there is only one season: springtime. God always plants new seeds here, which bring fruit a hundredfold. And the eyes of the faithful, with their brilliance, seem to watch over the nights of Medjugorje and chase away darkness and despair."

Those interested to join the pilgrimage can call Arpex Travel at 5253883/525-3902. The trip includes Paris and Lourdes. Departure is June 21 and return is July 1.

Action program launching

The Alay Kapwa Lenten Action Program will be launched at the Our Lady of Antipolo cathedral Feb. 26-27. The program will focus on the power of the poor for social transformation. For more information, call Myra or Carlitos at 527-4146/4147/4148 or fax 527-4144.

Hearing-impaired children

For as long as there are good people who help the poor, this is a happier world. The Granada Educational Foundation (Gefi) runs the School for the Hearing Impaired, especially poor children. Now on its eighth year, the school is going to hold graduation exercises 9-11 a.m., March 18, at the GEFI covered court inside the San Juan de Dios Center on R. Hidalgo St., Quiapo.

Please help in the printing of the souvenir program by being a sponsor. Call 7362938 or 7323174.

Faith formation series

AS PART of its Integrating Faith Formation Program, the Evangelion Foundation Inc. is offering "Voting in the Light of Christian Faith," a lecture by Fr. Romeo J. Intengan, SJ on Feb. 28 at 2-5 p.m. at the San Carlos Seminary Auditorium, Edsa Guadalupe, Makati and "The Way to Holiness," a Lenten recollection to be given by Msgr. Mylo Vergara on March 6 at 8-11 a.m. in the Philosophy Room of San Carlos Seminary. The seminars are free of charge.

Fr. Intengan is the provincial superior of the Philippine Province of the Society of Jesus and chairman of Konsyensyang Pilipinas while Msgr. Vergara is the President of Radyo Veritas and Pastor of the Holy Sacrifice Parish in UP, Diliman.

In addition, Evangelion, a non-stock, non-profit organization, dedicated to the mission of transforming structures in the marketplace, offers values and spiritual formation seminars to offices, schools, parishes and companies.

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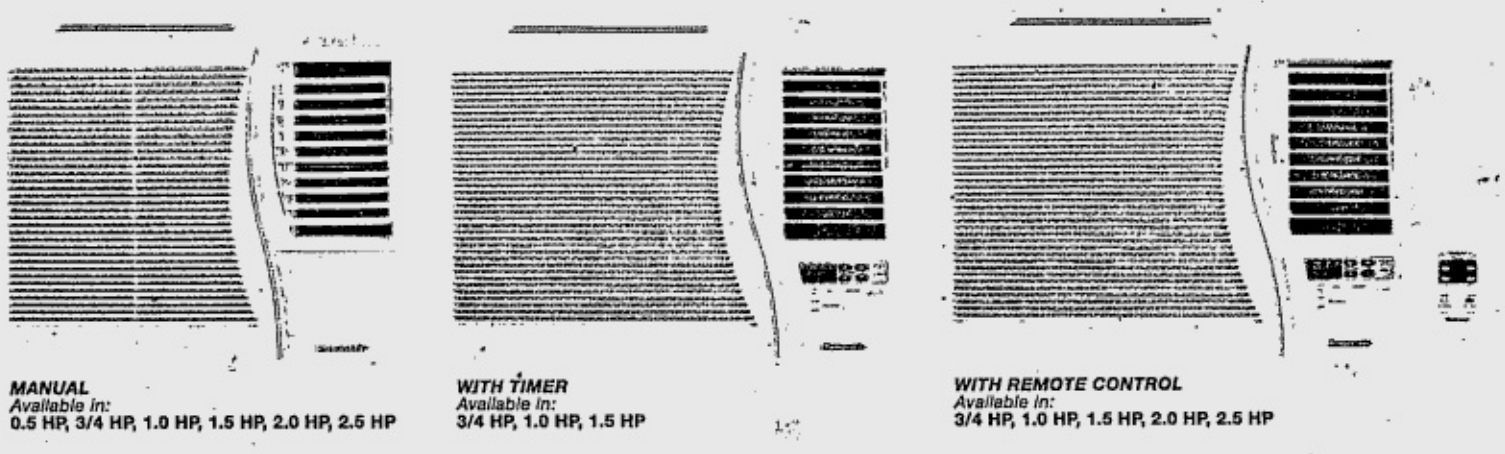

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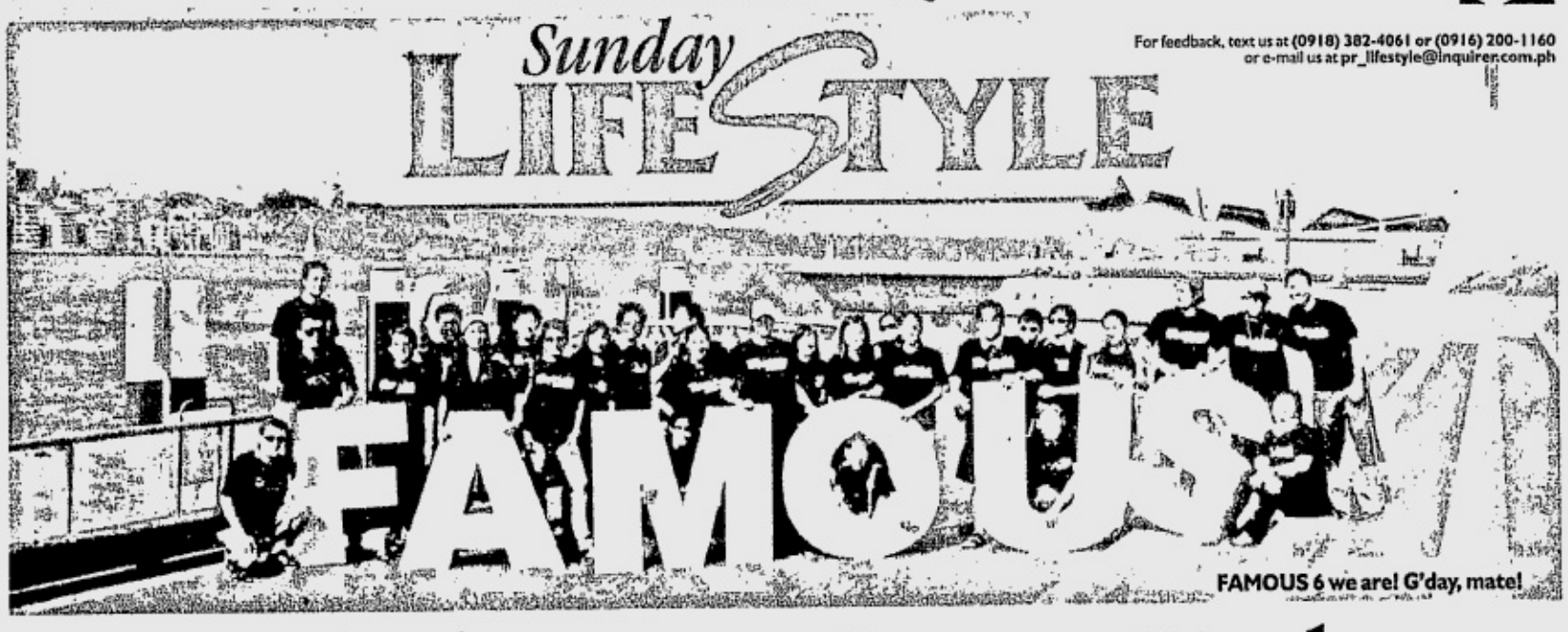

FAMOUS 6 we are! G'day, mate!

Up and about in Down Under

TESSA!

Tessa Prieto-Valdes

WHEN you get the grand dames of the lifestyle sections of the country's top newspapers, throw in the most happening fashion and lifestyle writers of Manila's broadsheets and magazines, shake it up with the hottest photographer and models, and top it all off with one name, **Keren Pascual**, what do you get? A mix spelled F-a-m-o-u-s!

Now on its sixth voyage, the Famous destination was Down Under, a.k.a. the Land called Oz.

IMELDIFIC! My Louie Clapparols tank top with Borgy Manotoc's *lola* printed on it

WITH a Blue Mountains backdrop, lifestyle editors Chelo Banal-Formoso (INQUIRER,) Ethel Soliven Timbol (Bulletin) and Millet Mananquil (Star) pose in their Adidas caps.

THE BLOKES against the Sydney Opera House

ESSENCES lady and excellent singer Toni Abad rocks Down Under.

Although not as large a group as Keren's previous cruise trips, Famous 6 was as appealing to me because I love Sydney. Now regarded as the gay capital of the world (yes, it has surpassed San Francisco in that sense), one can just imagine the creative level of the city in terms of fashion, food, arts and architecture.

Not to mention accessories! Shopping in Paddy's Market, which is equivalent to our Greenhills *tiangge*, I found myself in heaven at the wig section. All the finest hair pieces in every cut, color and length my little heart desired, they had.

At another shopping area, I bought my prized item of the trip, a translucent, seven-inch-heel slip-on, guaranteed to give me the quintessential height is might. With those shoes, my **Rajo Laurel** gowns on loan do not have to be shortened anymore or maybe much less.

Enough to give anyone vertigo, the platform shoe store displayed other items like thigh-high boots in patented red and white and slightly lower versions of the heels. In the middle of them all was an interesting sign, "We have men sizes available!"

First-time visitors to Sydney should do the essentials, like taking a harbor cruise and touring their world-famous landmark, the Sydney Opera House. Also on the "must-do" list is to check out one of their nearby beaches like Bondi Beach (they have a nudist section at a nearby cove if you're daring enough), and to bushwalk through the World Heritage-listed Blue Mountains, which are the country's version of the Grand Canyon.

Borgy Grey

At Bondi Beach, swimming between the flags, I saw lots of surfers trying to catch some waves. Right by the shore, fully clothed Indians were getting their feet wet in contrast to some of the men swimming just with their jockeys. Different strokes for different folks.

But the best sight to see was not the Aussie swimmers but our very own topless **Borgy Manotoc**. Boy, he is the embodiment of **Dorian Grey**. To top his gorgeous physique, he is such a gentleman. He carried my luggage (all three oversized ones... almost one suitcase a day) to the bus. His mother has truly trained him well.

I was just happy to swim in near-freezing water, hand in hand with Rajo, and get some sun even if I covered myself with Clarins SPF 30 and Malibu sunblock. Being 40 makes one more conscious about wrinkles.

UP/ G3

I was almost famous in the Famous tour of Australia, except that I got cold feet in the nudist portion of Bondi beach

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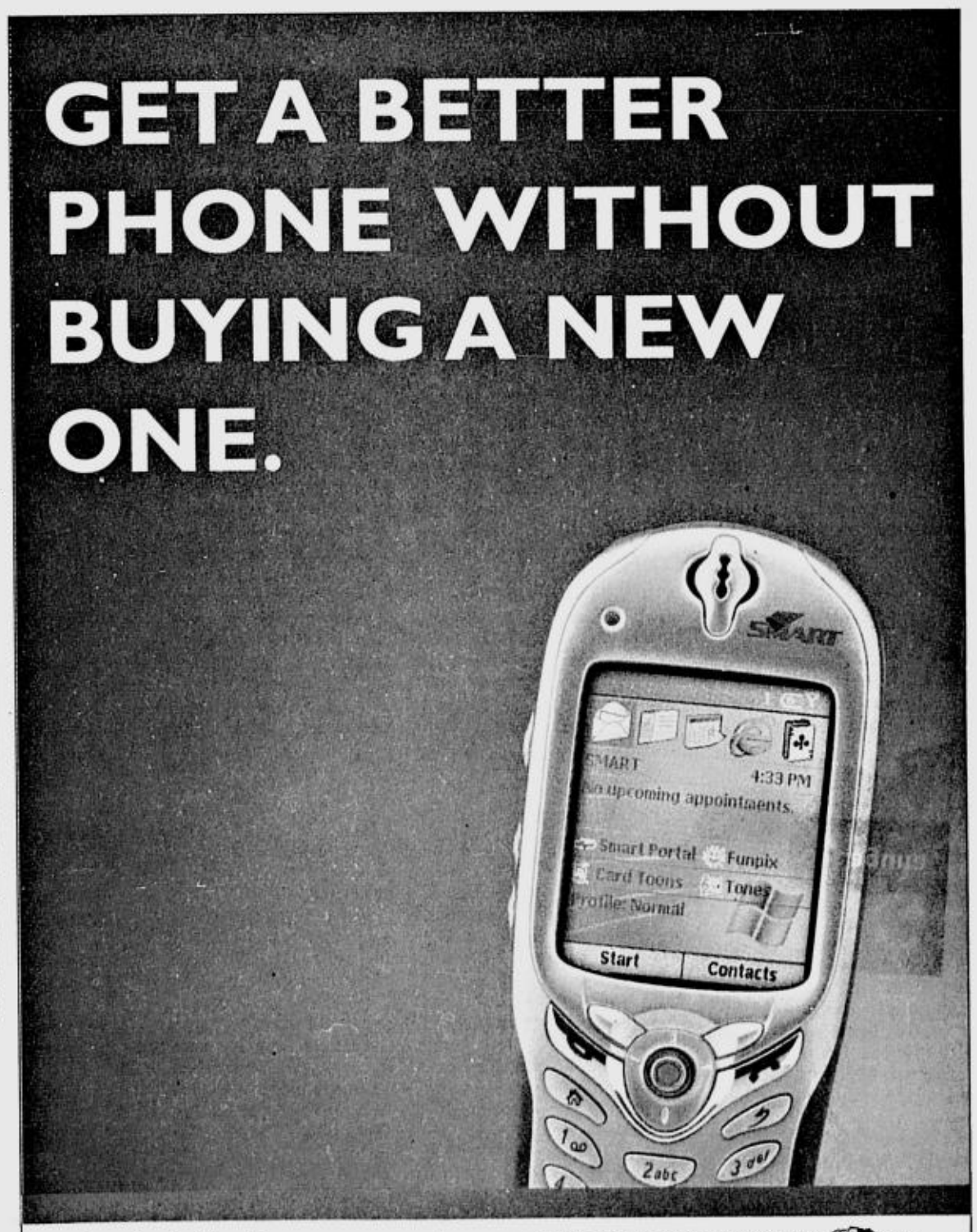

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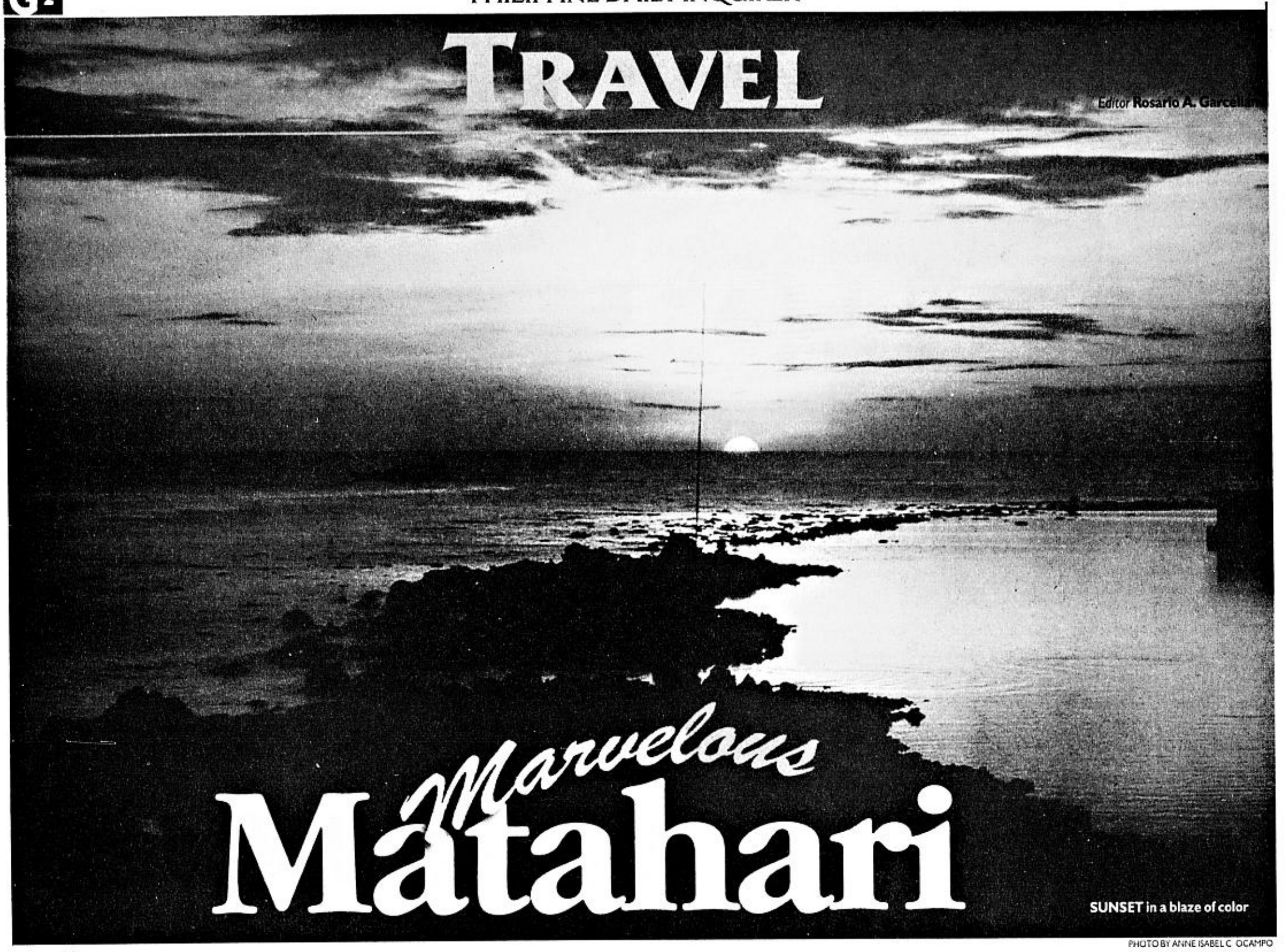
TRAVEL

Editor Rosario A. Garcellano



Marvelous Matahari

SUNSET in a blaze of color

PHOTO BY ANNE ISABEL C. OCAMPO

How refreshing to just sit there under a clear sky, with a breeze blowing and the clear waters in view

By Irene Marie C. Bausas
Contributor

IN BAHASA, the Indonesian language, "Matahari" refers to the sun. It thus seems a fitting name for a resort with marvelous sunrises and sunsets.

The Matahari Island Resort is one of over 700 islands, called Pulau Seribu (1,000 Islands), in Jakarta Bay. Some of the islands are said to have sunk, leaving only 700 afloat. Of these, about 10 have been turned into resorts; some are publicly owned.

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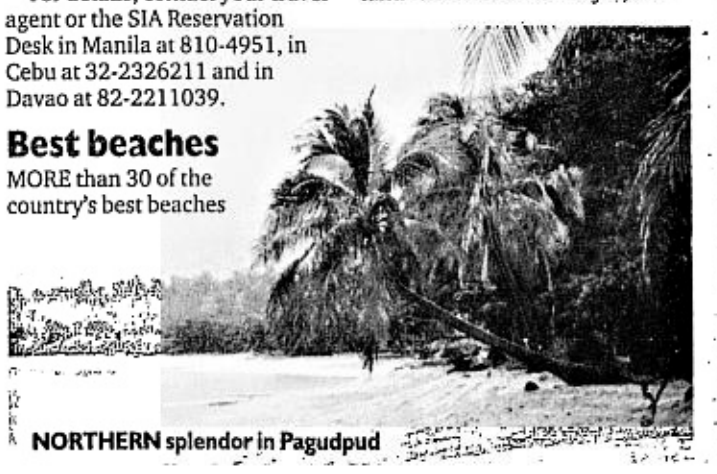

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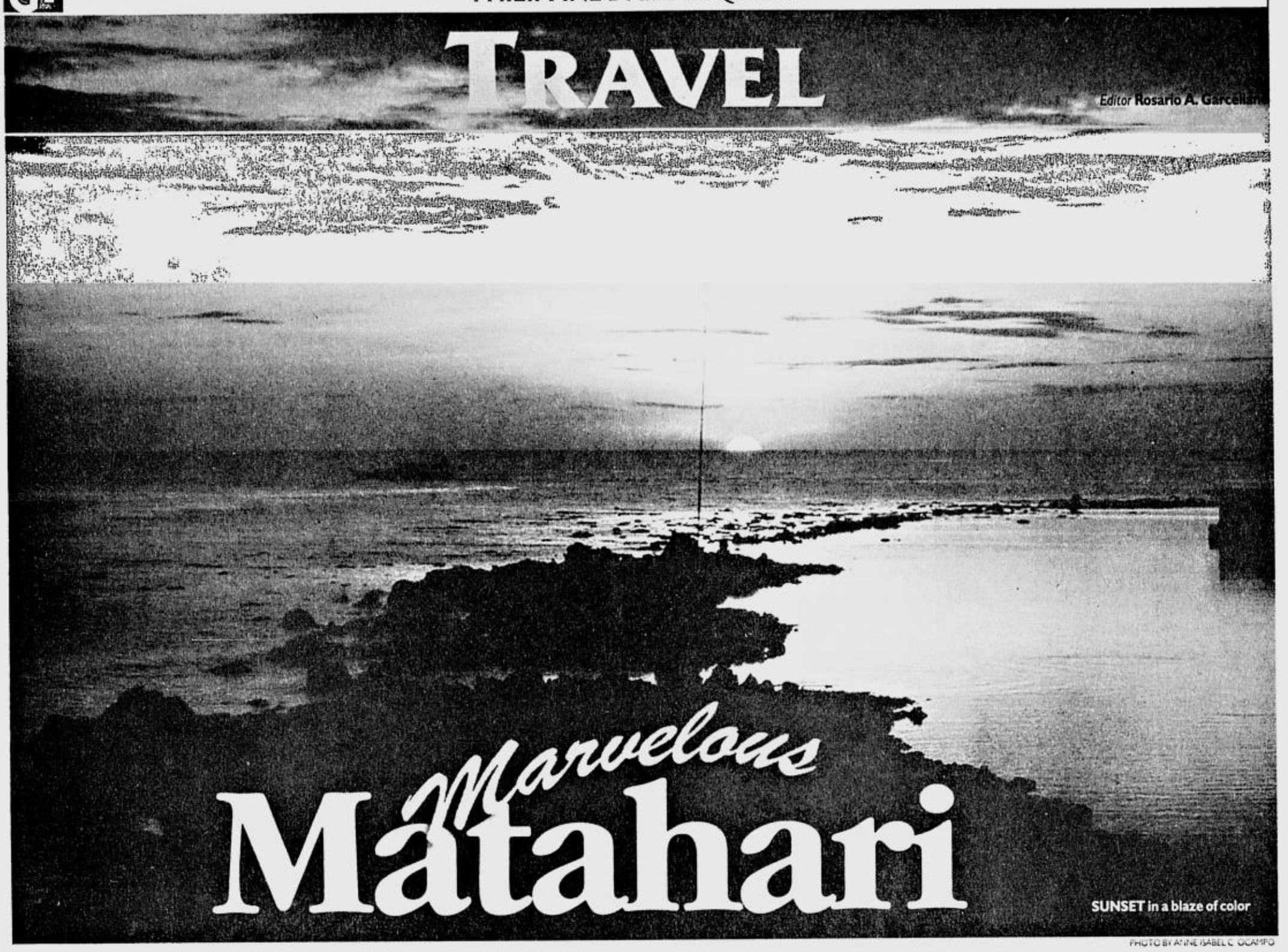
TRAVEL

Editor Rosario A. Garcellano



SUNSET in a blaze of color

PHOTO BY ANNE ISABELLE OCAMPO

Marvelous Matahari

How refreshing to just sit there under a clear sky, with a breeze blowing and the clear waters in view

By Irene Marie C. Bausas
Contributor

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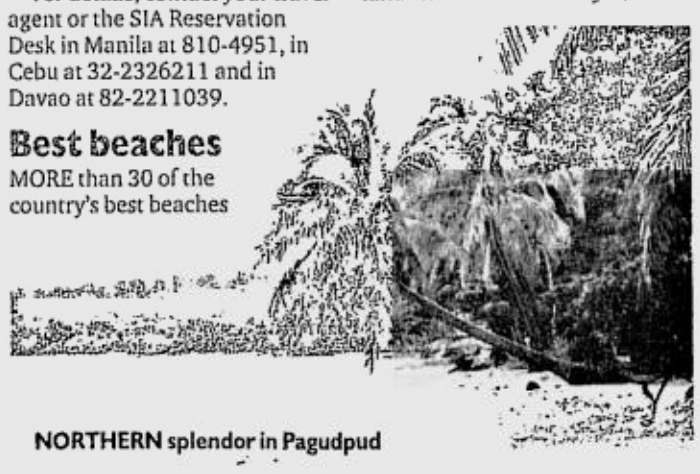

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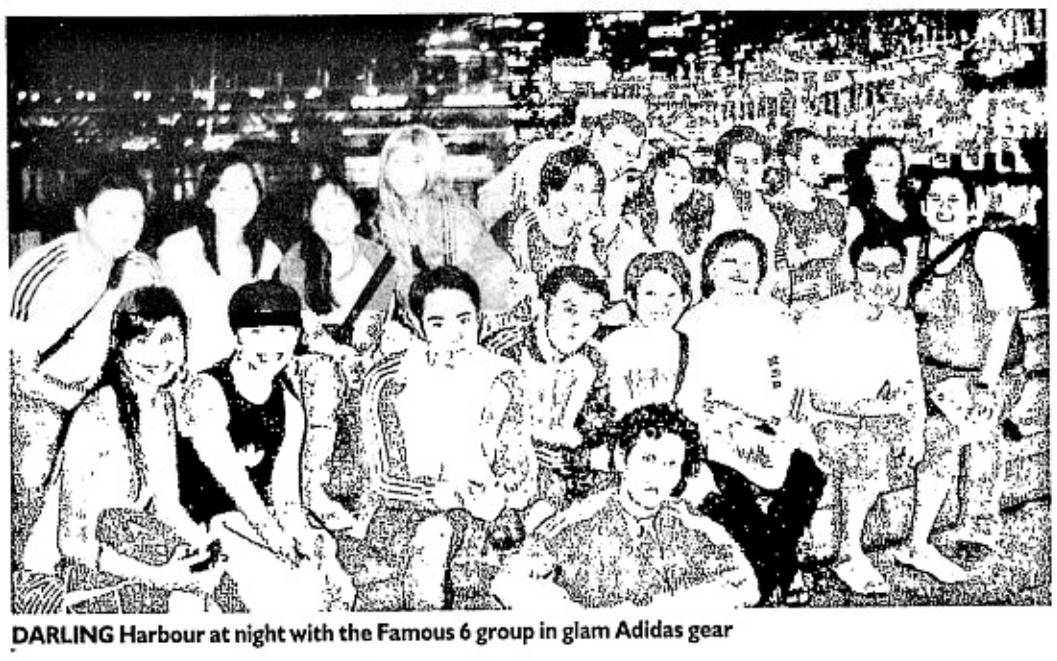


DARLING Harbour at night with the Famous 6 group in glam Adidas gear

PARADISE party along the Sydney harbor. The gang enjoying Mango Rum Liquor on deck

Up and about in Down Under

From page G1

Daring as I might be in dressing, I was not so adventurous as to display my wares at the nudist section of Bondi. I would need a lot of scientific enhancements before I step over there.

Seeing the majestic Blue Mountains made me marvel at the glorious creations of God. What better way to preserve the moment than to have much-sought-after, ace photographer **Xander Angeles** do a photo shoot on the edge of the jagged terrain? Good thing my new yellow Adidas running shoes had excellent grip on the rocks while I was tossing my braided wig in the air.

But do not leave Australia without a wildlife experience with the koalas and kangaroos. During this trip, I even hosted a portion for ABS-CBN, which was taping a segment for a future show. Their writer, **Joel Mercado**, didn't even need to cue me. Their zoo keepers were so knowledgeable. I discovered that emus, which are native to Australia, are the largest flightless birds (although its cousin, the ostrich, might beg to disagree).

Pinoy flair

Compared to the punctual Japanese tour groups that sat quietly asleep between tourist spots, the Pinoys always broke out into a song. Our bus driver, **Desmond**, just like in the Beatles song, said that even if we went at our leisurely pace and were almost always late, the Pinoys got personality.

As we united in karaoke without the minus-

UP/ G4

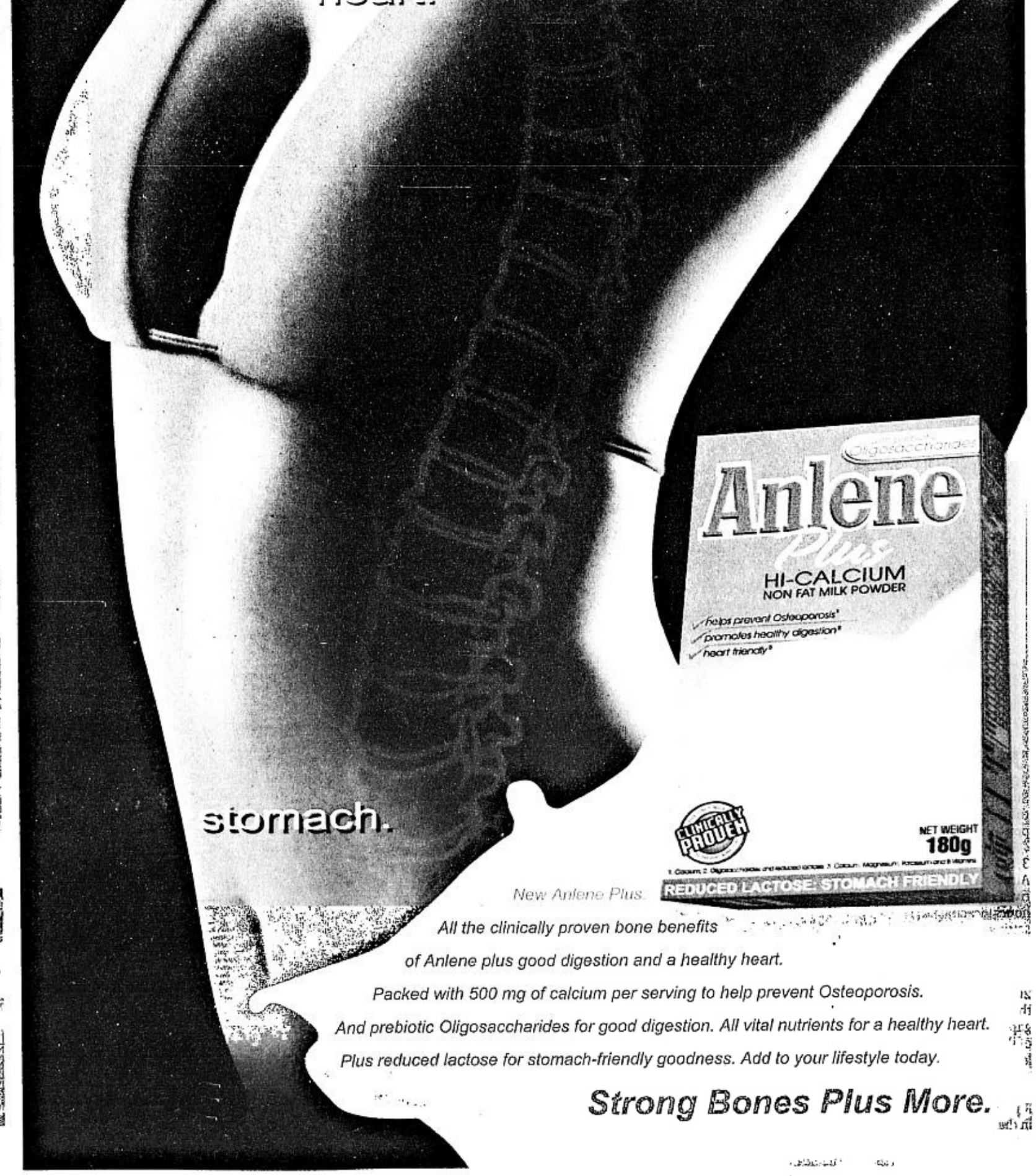
WRITER'S dream. Joel Mercado of ABS-CBN at the Rocks

HEIGHT is might! 7-inch heels up close

MAGNETIC beauties in a row. Raya Mananquil and Bianca Valerio

ADIDAS family Down Under. Andrew Garcia, Oona Mapua and Toti Wong

BIRTHDAY boy Ipe Cruz partying with Jennie Verano and Toti Wong



MALIBU boys. Jon Herrera, Mikee Carrion, Brent Javier, Ton Lao, Famous guru Keren Pascual, Borgy Manotoc and Tirso Garcia

WIGS aplenty. Rajo Laurel and Sea Princess in disguise at Paddy's Market

SAY SYDNEY! Ace photographer Xander Angeles wearing his Adidas watch

BONDI beach babe Bianca Valerio with tattooed beau Mikee Carrion

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From page G3

one (we are truly a gifted race), new talents were added to the Famous family—**Toni Abad** of Essences and **Toti Wong** of Adidas. Even my roommate-model, **Bianca Valerio**, who wakes up with long, beautiful straight hair (I have to sleep with a wig if I want to achieve that), can sing **Norah Jones** songs so wonderfully.

The **Toni Braxton** of the group, our Toni, was even better because she introduced us to the many products Essences carry, from skin treatments like La Prairie, Clarins and Dermalogica to perfumes like Escada and Keiko Mecheri. I even got a Nars makeup travel kit.

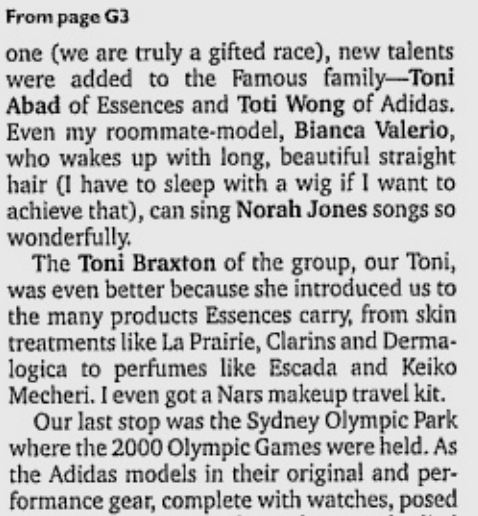
Our last stop was the Sydney Olympic Park where the 2000 Olympic Games were held. As the Adidas models in their original and performance gear, complete with watches, posed between the 480 graphic poles, I embodied the Olympic feeling by running in the oval. In my next life, I want to be an Olympian in synchronized swimming.

As we ended back, our tour leader, the very efficient **Jennie Verano**, was able to squeeze in a stopover in the mall, to Target! Another typical Pinoy trait—shopping for *pasalubongs*.

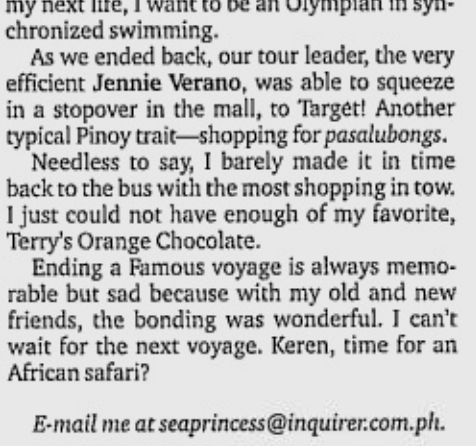
Needless to say, I barely made it in time back to the bus with the most shopping in tow. I just could not have enough of my favorite, Terry's Orange Chocolate.

Ending a Famous voyage is always memorable but sad because with my old and new friends, the bonding was wonderful. I can't wait for the next voyage. Keren, time for an African safari?

E-mail me at seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph.



PHOTOGRAPHERS in love. Cheryl and Xander Angeles Bondi-ng on the beach



IMAX viewers. Brent Javier and Ton Lao about to watch a 3D movie

EMU sighting at the Australian Wildlife Park with cameraman Boyet Baldemor

SM City BAGUIO
Celebrates
Panagbenga 2004
3-day Sale
up to 50% off
Mallwide sale on selected items
Feb. 20 • 21 • 22
EXTENDED MALL HOURS 10a.m. • 11p.m.
MISS FLOWER QUEEN 2004 (Feb 19) • OFFICIAL OPENING VENUE FOR STRE
DANCING COMPETITION (Feb 21) & FLOWER FLOAT PARADE (Feb 22)
RAMBAKAN: The Ultimate Panagbenga Street Party (Feb 23)
PANAGBENGA RAMP SHOW (Feb 29)

JOB Market

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2004
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PHILIPPINE DAILY **INQUIRER**
published every Sunday and distributed in key cities
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P230 per column centimeter every Sunday
DEADLINES
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Thursday 12:00 noon

Jobz Resumé Central at Onstage Greenbelt, Makati on Feb. 23 and 24, 2004

PART I

Where You Find The Best.

SM

MOVE ON UP... MOVE TO US!

If you want your career to go places, join any of our branches and get ready to reach the top of the corporate ladder.

for DASMARIÑAS, BATANGAS and METRO MANILA BRANCHES

OPERATIONS GROUP

BUILDING ADMINISTRATION MANAGER
graduate of Business Administration, Mechanical or Electrical Engineering; with 2 years work experience in property management and building administration in the same capacity; able to lead group, prioritize work load, and meet deadlines

CUSTOMER SERVICE MANAGER / SUPERVISOR
graduate of any 4-year business course; with 1 to 2 years experience in sales and marketing, able to carry out prompt and efficient customer service; with pleasing personality

SELLING MANAGER / SUPERVISOR
graduate of any 4-year business course; with 1 to 2 years experience in retail operations, food chain or in sales in the same capacity; responsible for planning, controlling and directing selling activities and personnel for the attainment of sales targets

COUNTER & CHECKING MANAGER / SUPERVISOR
graduate of any 4-year business course; with 1 to 2 years experience in cashiering operations, familiar with credit card and cash transactions; responsible for over-all supervisory personnel in the department

WAREHOUSE MANAGER / SUPERVISOR
graduate of any 4-year business course; with extensive experience in all aspects of warehousing operations in a retail business; able to lead and motivate staff, and foster a team working environment

CUSTOMER RELATIONS SERVICE MANAGER / SUPERVISOR
graduate of Criminology or any 4-year business course; male, must be 5'6" & female, 5'2" in height; with 1 year related work experience; must be physically fit; flexible to different work assignments and willing to be assigned in provincial branches and work on extended hours

OFFICE ASSISTANT
(Human Resources * Accounting * Treasury * Customer Service)
graduate of Psychology, Behavioral Science, Communication Arts, Business Management, Accountancy, Computer Science or any 4-year business course; Personable, fast learner and willing to work on extended hours

SUPPORT AND ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP

TREASURY MANAGER / SUPERVISOR
graduate of any 4-year business course; with 2 years supervisory experience in accounting, funds management or treasury functions; familiar with banking operations & Central Bank procedures

ACCOUNTING MANAGER/OFFICER
must be a Certified Public Accountant; with 2-5 years managerial/supervisory experience in all aspects of Accounting operations

ADVERTISING & PROMOTION COORDINATOR
graduate of any 4-year business course; with 1 to 2 years experience in advertising; must be creative and with good fashion sense; strong organization and communication skills; must be computer literate

ENGINEER
* Mechanical * Civil * Electrical
preferably licensed; with 1 year work experience in construction projects or mall operations

DESIGN OFFICER
graduate of Architecture; preferably licensed; knowledgeable in AutoCADD application; with 1 year work experience in site inspection and supervision; proficient in drafting, designing and estimates

DISPLAY OFFICER
graduate of Fine Arts, or any 4-year related course; with 1 year experience in visual merchandising and window display in a retail business; proficient in Adobe Photoshop, Coreldraw, PrintShop

TRAINING OFFICER / TRAINER
graduate of Education, Psychology, Behavioral Science or any 4-year business course; with 2 years related work experience; knowledgeable in the conduct of training needs analysis, design, implementation and evaluation of training programs and activities related to behavior and skill modification of employees

NURSE
must be a Registered Nurse; with 2 years experience in industrial or hospital set-up; able to establish rapport and deal with all levels of the organization; willing to work on shift schedules or extended hours

COMPUTER OPERATOR / TECHNICIAN
graduate of Computer Science / Engineering; with 1 to 2 years experience in repair, trouble shooting and maintenance of cash registers

Candidates for the positions should have the following competencies:
Excellent communication skills, both verbal and written form
Can relate well with all levels of the organization
Proficient in computer software application
Team player, goal-oriented and able to work well under pressure
Willing to grow with the organization
Willing to work on weekends and holidays

Interested parties may apply personally from Mon. to Fri., 9am - 4pm or send their complete resume with recent photo at the following SM Department Store Offices:
SM Dasmariñas – (Benefits Office) – JRC Building, Governor Mangubat Ave. (Formerly Congressional Ave.) Barrio Langkaan II, Dasmariñas, Cavite
SM Batangas – (Talaga Valley) – SM Corporate Office Bldg. D 1000 Bay Boulevard, SM Central Business Park Bay City / Pasay City
Visit our website : www.sm-shoemart.com
E-mail : Recruit.SM.HO@sm-shoemart.com
(Please bring Resume, 2 pcs. 2 x 2 colored picture with white background, SSS Number / SSS Employment History, Transcript of Records and Diploma)

SM

MOVE ON UP... MOVE TO US!

If you want your career to go places, join any of our branches and get ready to reach the top of the corporate ladder

Dasmariñas & Metro Manila Branches

CASHIERS / CHECKERS

- at least college level
- not more than 25 years old

SALES CLERKS

- female, 18-25 years old
- at least High School graduate
- 5 feet 2 inches in height
- with pleasant disposition

(Please come in blouse and skirt)

SALES UTILITY / STOCK CLERKS

(FOR DASMARIÑAS ONLY)

- male, 18-25 years old
- at least High School graduate
- 5 feet 6 inches in height
- with pleasant disposition

Interested parties may apply personally from Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. - 12 noon at the Personnel Department of any SM Department Store.

***For Dasmariñas applicants:* Apply personally at JRC Building Governor D Mangubat Avenue, (formerly Congressional Ave.) Dasmariñas, Cavite.**

Please bring bio-data, 2 pcs. 2x2 colored picture with white background, SSS number/ SSS Employment History printout and TIN (if available).

SM

MOVE ON UP... MOVE TO US!

If you want your career to go places, join any of our branches and get ready to reach the top of the corporate ladder

BRANCH OPERATIONS MANAGER

Job Responsibility

Responsible for the over-all operations of a department store to ensure attainment of optimum sales performance and excellent customer service.

Job Qualification

- has a degree in Business Management, Marketing or any related course
- with 3 to 5 years relevant experience in Management or Marketing in a senior capacity
- with outstanding leadership, interpersonal and team-building skills
- able to conceptualize and implement attainable sales projections
- has proven track records in sales and service

Branch Locations

Provincial : Cagayan De Oro, Lucena, Baguio, Davao, Dasmariñas & Batangas
Soon to Open : Lipa, Clark, Mall of Asia, Sta. Rosa, San Lazaro
❖ and our Metro Manila Branches

Interested parties may apply personally from Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. or send their comprehensive resumé with recent photo to:

SM Shoemart
SM Corporate Office
Bldg. D 1000 Bay Boulevard, SM Central Business Park
Bay City, Pasay City
Visit our website : www.sm-shoemart.com
E-mail : Recruit.SM.HO@sm-shoemart.com

(Please bring Bio-data, 2 pcs. 2x2 colored picture with white background, SSS number and photocopy of your Transcript of Records and Diploma together with the original copy)

Do you want to be identified with a large and well-respected conglomerate?
Do you want to be a part of a team of young & aggressive professionals in charting the direction of a stable and fast-growing Bank?
If you answer in the affirmative, read on.

RobinsonsBank
A Savings Bank

A member of the highly diversified conglomerate, JG Summit Holdings Corp., ***Robinsons Bank*** *is in urgent need of young professionals to fit the following key positions:*

Branch Manager
(For Metro Manila, Mandaue Cebu, Dasma Cavite, Sta. Rosa, Laguna & Lipa Batangas)
- ✔ Between 30 – 35 years old
- ✔ Graduate of any Business related course
- ✔ At least 2 yrs. Marketing experience & sufficient knowledge of branch operations
- ✔ With good oral and communication skills
- ✔ Preferably Chinese speaking for Cebu

Product Manager
- ✔ Between 25 - 35 years old
- ✔ Graduate of any Business related course
- ✔ With at least 3yrs. experience in Product Management
- ✔ With excellent oral & written comm. skills

MIS / Exec. Asst. for Mktg.
- ✔ Between 25 - 35 years old
- ✔ Graduate of any Business related course; pref. with Advertising background
- ✔ With at least 2yrs. experience in handling bank product presentation and materials conceptualization
- ✔ With excellent oral & written comm. skills
- ✔ Highly creative and imaginative

Treasury Support Assistant
- ✔ Between 20 - 25 years old
- ✔ Graduate of any Business related course
- ✔ With good scholastic records
- ✔ Bank experience is an advantage but not required
- ✔ Must be analytical
- ✔ With good oral & written comm. skills

Marketing Officer Auto & Liabilities
(For Metro Manila, Cebu, Iloilo & Bacolod)
- ✔ Between 25 - 35 years old
- ✔ Graduate of any Business related course
- ✔ With strong marketing background preferably in Banking or related fields
- ✔ Familiar with solicitation of deposit and auto loan accounts
- ✔ With good oral & written comm. skills
- ✔ Pleasing personality

Account Officer
- ✔ Between 25 – 35 years old
- ✔ Graduate of any Business related course
- ✔ With at least 2 yrs. experience as Account Officer for Commercial and Consumer Loans
- ✔ Excellent oral & written comm. skills
- ✔ Pleasing Personality

Technical Operations Specialist
- ✔ Male, between 20 - 30 years old
- ✔ Graduate of Computer Science, Computer Engineering, ECE or related courses
- ✔ With at least 3–5 yrs. experience in Windows NT Administration, Router Configuration & other technical support functions
- ✔ Willing to be assigned in night shift

Credit Evaluator
- ✔ Between 20 - 25 years old
- ✔ Graduate of any Business related course
- ✔ Background in loan processing and evaluation is an advantage
- ✔ Must be analytical
- ✔ With good oral & written comm. skills

Sales & Service Officer
(For Pool, Dasmariñas Cavite, and Sta. Rosa, Laguna)
- ✔ Between 25 – 30 years old
- ✔ Graduate of any Business related course
- ✔ CPA an advantage
- ✔ 3 to 5 years experience in new accounts, tellering, bookkeeping and supervision

Customer Sales Asst./Teller
(For MMla, Pool, Dasmariñas Cavite, Sta. Rosa, Laguna & Lipa, Batangas)
- ✔ Between 20 – 25 years old
- ✔ Graduate of any Business related course
- ✔ Experience in tellering / new accounts is an advantage
- ✔ Computer literate
- ✔ With good oral & written comm. skills
- ✔ Pleasing personality

Business Systems Specialist
- ✔ Between 23 - 30 years old
- ✔ Graduate of Computer Science or related courses
- ✔ Can handle business projects and support users
- ✔ At least 2 yrs. experience in using Visual Basic, Access, RPG, and other banking applications
- ✔ Knowledge of Silverlake banking system is an advantage

I.T. Auditor
- ✔ Between 22 - 30 years old
- ✔ Graduate of Accounting; CPA
- ✔ With at least 1year experience in Systems Audit gained from an Audit Firm or Banks
- ✔ Must be analytical; computer literate
- ✔ With good oral & written comm. skills

Interested applicants may submit their Letter of Application, Resumé, & Transcript of Records to:

ROBINSONS SAVINGS BANK - HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT GROUP
Level 1, Octagon Bldg., San Miguel Ave., Pasig City
Fax no. (632) 6363048 • Email: recruitment@robinsonsbank.com.ph
Only qualified applicants shall be notified.

A JG Summit Company

A more creative way of working.

Your creativity is the most powerful business tool on Earth. At HP, we provide an environment where you can set it free and discover just how far it can take you. Everyday, the people of HP look at the world we share and find ways in which technology can make it a better place. From the most cutting-edge digital photography equipment to the world's most powerful processors, we're using creativity to put technology to work for everyone. Join us.

Account Services Manager
Ref: 839494
Job Location: Philippines

Job Description
The world has changed – again. Before, we provided information for business. Today, information is the business. And to transform our customers' business, for them to be able to get measurably more from their IT investment, is a unique position HP Services has. Because we are here for our customers. Putting them first, makes us number one.

That's why we need someone who can be the key builder of customer relationships. Working with the sales team to create and aid new businesses, develop, and present structure solutions with potential outsourcing clients. As Account Services Manager, you will direct and manage the analysis, design proposal, implementation, and ongoing delivery for an assigned account. Thus ensuring profitability, revenue performance, and customer loyalty.

Your Profile
To qualify, you should have the following:

- A Bachelor's (undergraduate) degree or Master's (graduate) degree in Computer Science, Electrical or Computer Engineering or any relevant discipline.
- At least six years experience in managing complex IT projects
- A broad knowledge of technology (UNIX, NT, Networking, Open System, Internet, Data Warehousing, etc...)
- Business, customer and project management skills
- Planning and budgeting skills
- Well-developed leadership skills
- Analytical and conceptual skills
- Excellent communication skills
- Excellent presentation skills
- Client relationship skills
- A driver's license
- Willingness to travel

To apply for this job, log on to **www.jobs.hp.com** and search for job number 839494.

hp invent

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A PROGRESSIVE COMPANY IS IN NEED OF THE FOLLOWING PERSONNELS FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING:

PERSONNEL SUPERVISOR
- With Bachelor's Degree in Psychology, Behavioral Science or its related course
- With 2-4 years experience in recruitment, job appraisal, performance evaluation
- Capable of relating to individuals of all levels
- Willing to be assigned in Cavite

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
- Female, college graduate, between 22 to 30 years old
- With excellent written and oral communication skills (able to do good correspondence)
- Computer literate (EXCEL, WORD, E-mail applications
- Highly organized

TREASURY ASSISTANT
- Female, accounting graduate with good scholastic records
- At least 3 years experience on cash management, banking relation accounts payable management and some financial accounts analysis
- Preferably Chinese, Manila Office Based

SENIOR ACCOUNTANT
- Female, Accounting graduate with at least 2 years experience in bookkeeping, financial statement preparation and other accounting functions
- Manila Office Based

ACCOUNTING CLERK
- Female, Accounting graduate, 21 years old and above
- With 6 months experience in accounting works preferably in Receivables
- Proficient in MS EXCEL and MS Word
- Cavite Residence Preferred

COMPUTER PROGRAMMER
- Male or Female, BS Math or Computer Science Graduate
- With 2 to 3 years experience in programming and System Analysis
- Should have background in Smart Card Business and Terminals
- Must be proficient in C++ and Java, resourceful, fast learner and with good communication skills
- Manila Office Based

IE HEAD
- Female, IE Grads with 3 to 5 years experience in time and motion studies, production line balancing
- Knows the function of cutting, sewing, finishing, quality control and merchandise costing
- To be assigned in SBFZ, Olongapo City

QUALITY CONTROL HEAD
- College Graduate, Industrial Management Engineering, 35 years old & below
- At least 3 years experience in handling woven items
- Actual knowledge of Sewing Operations and Technicalities
- Applicants are to be assigned in CEPZ, Cavite or SBFZ, Olongapo City

INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERS
- M/F, IE Grads preferably of Adamson, Mapua
- Preferably with 1 year experience in garments manufacturing but fresh grads with good scholastic records can also apply
- Applicants are to be assigned in CEPZ, Cavite or SBFZ, Olongapo City

Interested applicants may send their resumé, transcript of records & recent ID pictures to:

c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
Box No. KA-016-04CA
Ground Floor, Trinity Bldg., #636 TM Kalaw St., Ermita, Manila
E-mail address: cacsbac@pacific.net.ph

The best companies need the best people.
visit us at www.jobmarketonline.com

WANTED IMMEDIATELY
PROJECT MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST

A foreign assistance organization has an immediate need for a PROJECT MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST. The successful candidate will serve as the senior project specialist on civic participation and rule of law activities of the organization. Foreign assistance in the area of civic participation includes grants, cooperative agreements or contracts to civil society organizations and contractors in the areas of transparency and accountability, judicial reform, labor issues, business development and support, macroeconomic reforms, anti-corruption and others. The Civic Participation Manager will be responsible for coordinating the selection, development, implementation and evaluation, and close-out of all these grants, cooperative agreements and contracts, as well as the management, oversight, monitoring and assessment of these activities. The range and complexity of these activities require a person of vision, creativity, and flexibility since 50% of the position focuses on activity implementation management and personnel supervision, 35% on new activity development and 15% on strategic planning and development. The incumbent must be an experienced professional with demonstrated expertise in strengthening Philippine democracy and governance, and supporting the organization's policies pertaining to program and project development. The incumbent will represent the organization to high-level government counterparts and other partners. Possession of a bachelor's degree or the host country equivalent formal education in a field relevant to development assistance, such as public or business administration, economics, law or accounting, and other related fields. Completion of post-graduate / master degree is highly desirable. From six to eight years of progressively responsible, professional-level experience in the indicated field of specialization, including experience in the analysis and interpretation of data and the presentation of findings in written or oral form. At least five years of this related work is for a foreign assistance organization, other donor agencies, host government organizations, or private sector institutions.

Competitive salary (including mid-year and year-end bonuses), health/life insurance, supplementary retirement plan are offered.

Interested persons should send their application letter and comprehensive resumé **no later than MARCH 05, 2004** to:

Human Resources Division
P.O. Box EA 423
1000 Ermita, Manila

ATENEO DE MANILA UNIVERSITY
Loyola Heights, Quezon City

The Ateneo De Manila University Loyola Schools is in need of a

Maintenance Supervisor (Code: MS 2004)

with the following qualifications:

- College graduate;
- Has at least 3-5 year extensive work experience in maintenance and housekeeping supervision, work schedule design and monitoring, supplies inventory management
- Must be able to manage and train a maintenance staff complement of 33
- Has excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- Can work in shifts

Applicants may send their letter of applicatons, including resumé, transcript of records and 2x2 picture to:

CODE MS 2004
MS. CATHERINE S. GREGORIO
PERSONNEL OFFICE
2/F XAVIER HALL, ATENEO DE MANILA UNIVERSITY
LOYOLA HEIGHTS, QUEZON CITY 1103
Or e-mail to: **cgregorio@ateneo.edu**

Calling young dynamic pharmaceutical selling executives for the position of Area Manager / Medical Representative

Torrent Pharmaceuticals Ltd., the flagship company of the USD 700 Million group has over 400 products registered in more than 25 countries. Torrent Pharmaceuticals has infused more than USD 45 Million into the state of the art Torrent Research Center, which has an intellectual base of more than 250 scientists. Torrent Research Center is involved in NCE discovery projects and has already out licensed one of its new molecules to Novartis.

Now, Torrent intends to bring the very best in pharmaceuticals to the Philippines. To this end it needs young, dynamic individuals passionate about pharmaceutical selling for the position of Area Manager and Medical Representatives.

Who should apply?

Position 1: Area Manager / Supervisor

Candidate must be in the 30-35 year age group having at least 3 years experience in leading pharmaceutical sales teams. Strong man management skills and customer relationship building ability are highly desirable for this role.

Salary and incentives: As per industry standards.

Position 2: Medical Representative

Candidate must have a high Bachelor's Degree in science or pharmacy with at least 3-4 years experience in Pharmaceutical selling, and having thorough knowledge of the Metro Manila area. Good communication skills are highly desirable for this role.

Salary and incentives: As per industry standards.

Mail your resumés to: Sherryville Medical & Healthcare Products, Ground Floor, Manor building, #2629 Taft Avenue, Malate, Manila.

E-mail : smhp.dmi@pacific.net.ph
rajneeshgarga@yahoo.com

Phone : (632) 400 71 76, 523 50 58

Walk-in interviews will be conducted on February 26, 2004 at the Pan Pacific Hotel Function Room, Adriatico St., Malate, Manila from 9 a.m.

U-BIX CORPORATION

the country's leading office systems provider announces its job openings nationwide...

30 UBIX
30 years of service excellence
Cebu • Davao • Cagayan de Oro • Iloilo • Bacolod • Angeles • General Santos • Subic • Batangas • Sta. Rosa • CEPZA • Naga • Dumaguete

SALES EXECUTIVES
FOR COPIERS
(For Metro Manila, Calabarzon, Angeles, La Union, Naga .Bacolod, Iloilo, Cebu, Davao, General Santos, Dumaguete, Zamboanga)

Will be responsible for promoting and selling digital copiers

- Graduate of any business course from a reputable school
- Preferably with at least two years experience in selling office machines and equipment; a good working knowledge in computer operation, applications and networking are major advantages
- Determined to pursue career in sales
- Excellent interpersonal and communicahon skills
- Assertive and self-motivated
- Male/Female, not more than 30 years old

SALES EXECUTIVES
FOR SERVICEMASTER
(For Metro Manila, Cebu)

- Graduate of any business course from a reputable school
- Preferably with at least two years sales experience in the service industry
- Determined to pursue career in sales
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- Assertive and self-motivated
- Male/Female, not more than 30 years old

DEALER COORDINATORS
FOR EPSON PRINTERS
(For Metro Manila, Cagayan de Oro, Zamboanga)

- Graduate of any business course from a reputable school
- With at least two years experience in coordinating with dealers
- Determined to pursue career in sales
- Hardworking and self-motivated
- Willing to travel and work long hours
- Male/Female, not more than 30 years old

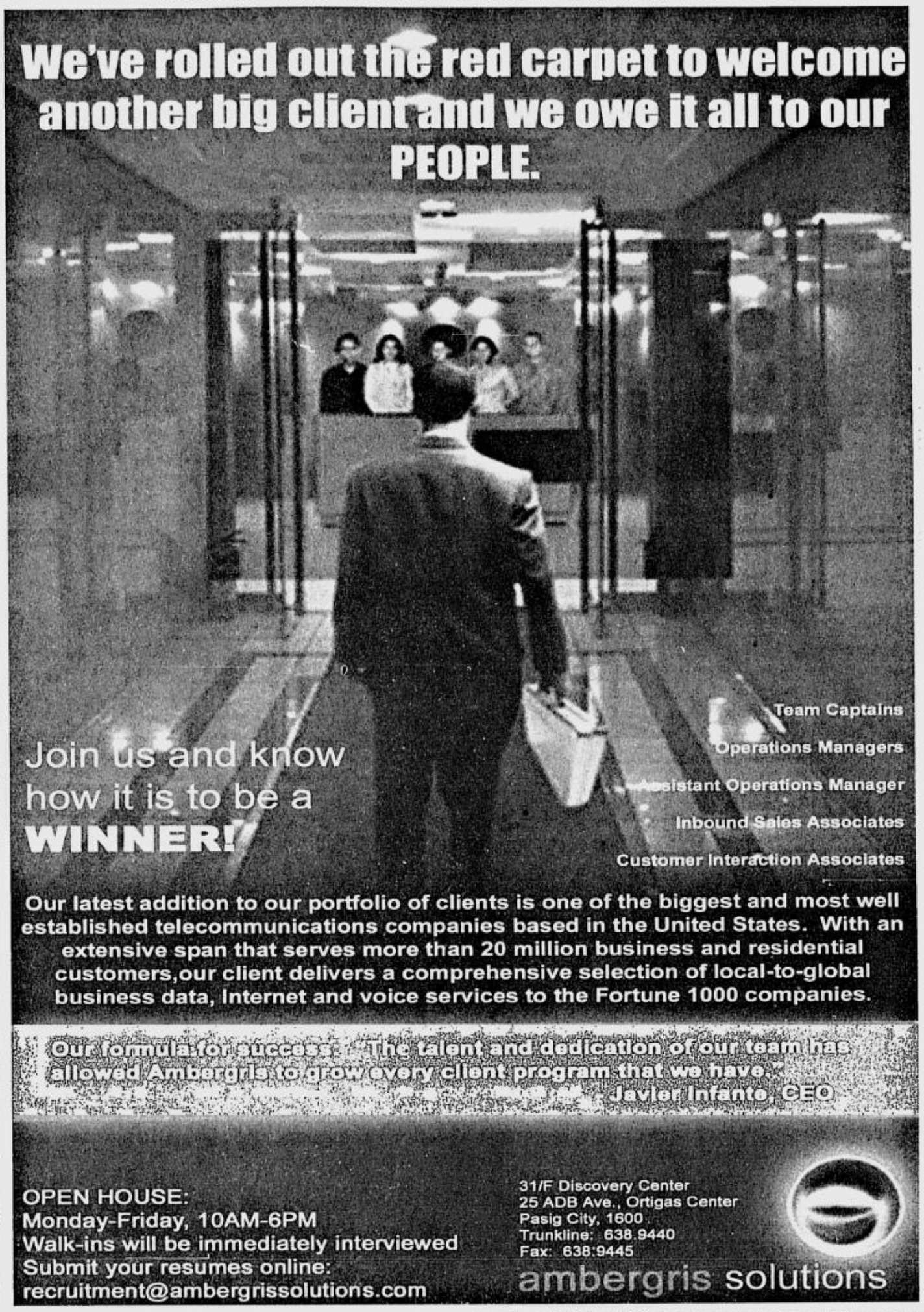
ACCTG. CLERK/ STOCK CUSTODIAN
(For Metro Manila, Angeles, Subic, Dumaguete and Iloilo)

- BS accountancy graduate
- With at least one year experience in Accounting or inventory
- Must be proficient in computer applications
- Must be responsible and can work for long hours
- Female, not more than 25 years old
- Preferably resident of Metro Manila, Angeles, Subic, Dumaguete or Iloilo

Competitive compensation, high commission and a rewarding professional career await successful candidates

Qualified applicants are requested to send or e-mail their resume with photo to:
Recruitment & Training Group
U-BIX CORPORATION
1331 Angono St., Makati City
E-mail Address: hrd@ubix.com.ph
Previous applicants need not apply.

Konica EPSON RISO okamura



ABC
American Bio-Clinical Laboratories, International

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

Item 1: MEDICAL TECHNOLOGIST/S
Qualifications: Registered Medical Technologist (RMT).
2 years experience as a Medical Technologist in a Clinical Diagnostic Laboratory setup.
Experience in Microbiology is an advantage.
(INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE will not be honored).

Item 2: SALES/MARKETING SUPERVISOR
Qualifications: Graduate of Medical Technology Course.
Degree in Marketing or Extensive Training in Sales/Marketing is a MUST.
2 years minimum experience as a Sales/Marketing Supervisor.

Item 3: MARKETING REPRESENTATIVE/S
Qualifications: Must be a Graduate of Medical Technology.
Sales/Marketing Experience required.
Very good communication skills.

...we are growing and moving!

All qualified applicants may submit resume with supporting documents to:

American Bio-Clinical Laboratories, Int'l.
Suite LG-5 Richville Corporate Tower
Madrigal Business Park, Ayala Alabang
Muntinlupa City, Philippines
Tel. Nos: 850-6288; 850-6289 Fax: 850-6287

AMPHIL BIO CHEMICAL
Exclusive Distributor of MEGA™ Diagnostics, U.S.A.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Item 1: SUB-DISTRIBUTORS for LUZON, VISAYAS, MINDANAO
We are looking for qualified Sub-Distributors of our diagnostic product:

MEGA™ SALMONELLA MICROWELL EIA
THE LATEST DIAGNOSTIC TESTING FOR TYPHOID INFECTION
(Salmonellosis)
... closest to the GOLD Standard ...ever!!!

Interested parties may submit Letter of Intent, Registration Documents together with a brief description of distribution network for specific territories of interest.

Item 2: SALES/MARKETING SUPERVISOR
Qualifications: Graduate of Medical Technology Course in Marketing or Extensive Training in Sales/Marketing is a MUST.
2 years minimum experience as a Sales/Marketing Supervisor

Item 3: MARKETING REPRESENTATIVE
Qualifications: Must be a Graduate of Medical Technology Course
Marketing Experience required
Very good communication skills

Qualified applicants may submit resume with supporting documents to:
AMPHIL BIO CHEMICALS, INC.
Suite 708 Richville Corporate Tower
Madrigal Business Park, Ayala Alabang
Muntinlupa City, Philippines
Tel. Nos: 850-1711; 850-1861; Fax: 850-1502

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Accounting Staff
- 21-25 years old
- Graduate of Accounting from a reputable school
- With excellent written and oral communication skills
- Computer literate with knowledge in Microsoft Office applications

Human Resource
- 21-28 years old
- Graduate of Behavioral Science or Industrial Engineering
- With work experience in Organizational and Human Resources Management
- With strong strategic analysis and business sense, planning, organizing, coordinating, inter-personal and problem-solving skills
- Decisive and performance driven

Salesman (Entry Position)
- Male, 21-28 years old
- Graduate of any four-year course, preferable Food Technology, Nutrition, Hotel & Restaurant Management, Marketing and other related courses
- With excellent written and oral communication skills
- With strong leadership potential and interpersonal skills
- Computer literate with knowledge in Microsoft Office applications

Sales Management Trainee
- Male, 24-30 years old
- Holder of appropriate college degree from a reputable school
- With at least one (1) year selling experience preferable in the consumer or food industry
- Working knowledge of the Basic Call Procedures, Telemarketing, Customer-service orientation
- Computer literate. Excellent communication skills, mature and organized, goal oriented. Strong leadership potential and interpersonal skills.
- Willing to accept Luzon provincial assignment and without restrictions to travel.

Please **MAIL** your comprehensive and detailed resumé indicating the minimum desired salary, latest 2x2 photo, contact numbers and other relevant credentials to **ADSIA**, Unit 409, Prince Plaza I, 106 Legaspi Street, Makati City.

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

SALES SUPERVISORS
- male or female, preferably graduates of architecture, civil engineering or interior design
- honest, hardworking, with good communication skills
- preferably with experience in marketing in any of the following fields:
  - Construction industry, specifically to architects, contractors, developers and builders
  - Glass and aluminum building components
  - Plumbing & bathroom fixtures and fittings

ACCOUNTING SUPERVISOR
- preferably but not necessarily a CPA; computer literate
- with auditing experience and exposure to companies with multiple product lines
- ability to speak Chinese, an advantage

COMPUTER PROGRAMMER
- male or female, a graduate of Computer Science
- adept in object-oriented programming
- preferably proficient in Delphi 6
- a fast-learner

Send your Bio-Data with recent photo to
c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
Box # KA-009-04 TE
Ground Floor, Trinity Bldg.,
#636 TM Kalaw St., Ermita, Manila
or to email: daveb822@hotmail.com

For immediate hiring

TECHNICAL SALES REPRESENTATIVE

- ☐ Graduate of Chemistry, Chemical Engineering, Food Technology, or Medical Technology
- ☐ With pleasing personality and good communication skills
- ☐ Aggressive, dynamic, and willing to do field work
- ☐ Experience in sales is an advantage but not required

Please send resumé to:

UNI-PHIL DANZEN INC.
12 Record Extension GSIS Village
Project 8, Quezon City 1106
Tel. No. 929-2046

Or you can e-mail it at: uniphil_danzen@hotmail.com

ACCOUNTANTS

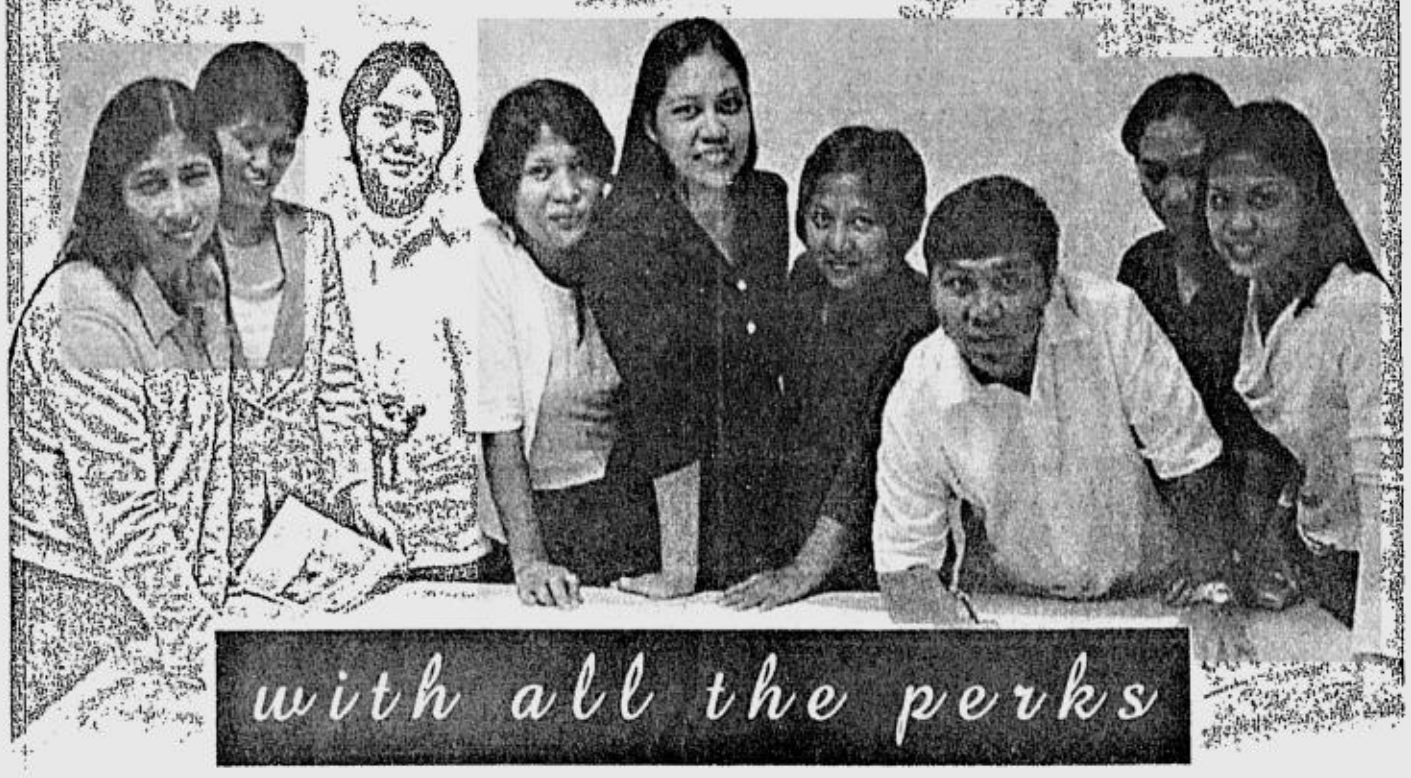
For assignment to clients in the services, distribution and manufacturing sectors:

Staff Positions
- Accounting graduate
- Proficient in Word and Excel
- Preferably with previous working experience
- Whom could effectively interact with top management
- Preferably CPA

Interested accountants are requested to personally submit their resumé and credentials Mondays to Wednesdays, 8:00 to 11:00 AM only to:

MANILA CONSULTING & MANAGEMENT CO., INC.
Unit 2106, 88 Corporate Center
Sedeño corner Valero Street
Salcedo Village, 1227 Makati City

BE PART OF A GROWING TEAM



with all the perks

GENEROUS ALLOWANCES • COMMISSIONS • INCENTIVES
FAST PROMOTIONS • BONUSES • RECOGNITION / CITATIONS
FOREIGN & LOCAL TRAVEL • WORLD CLASS TRAINING

Camella Homes - the market leader in the housing industry is in search of

PROPERTY CONSULTANTS & SALES MANAGERS

to carry our excellent range and unparalleled master-planned real estate inventory at Quezon City, Caloocan City, Novaliches & Bulacan.

QUALIFICATIONS :

Male or Female, 21 to 35 years old
Graduate of any 4-year course,
With Good Communication Skills
Ambitious, Aggressive & Hardworking
Highly Motivated & Driven to Fulfill his Dreams
Sales Managers with existing Sales Team an advantage

JOIN OUR TEAM ! COME TO OUR ONE-STOP REAL ESTATE JOB FAIR.
FEBRUARY 26, THURSDAY, 10 AM TO 4 PM
AT SERYE RESTAURANT & Café, QUEZON CITY CIRCLE.
PLEASE BRING YOUR RESUME & A RECENT PHOTO.
BROKERS ARE ALSO WELCOME TO APPLY

CAMELLA HOMES
TEL # 461-6148 / 49
LOOK FOR JUN ICARO

ALL ASIA CUSTOMER SERVICE, INC.

CALL CENTER AGENTS

Requirements:
- With at least 2 years college education in any field.
- With Excellent English Communication skills .
- Customer-oriented, highly motivated .
- Computer literate & with internet savvy.
- Can work under pressure .
- Willing to work on night shift and during holidays.
- Applicants must be willing to work in Makati City.
- Full-time (All shifts) & Part-time (day shift only) positions available.
- Working students are welcome to apply.
- Can start work immediately.

COMPANY NURSE

Requirements:
- The candidate must be a REGISTERED NURSE.
- Must be people-oriented, resourceful, pro-active, and willing to learn.
- Ability to work in a multi-tasked work environment.
- Night person who welcomes shifts and holiday work
- Computer literate.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Requirements:
- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree in any field.
- Female, 21 to 28 years old
- Applicants must be willing to work in Makati City.
- Applicants should be Filipino citizens or hold relevant residence status.
- Preferably 1-4 yrs experienced employees specializing in purchasing, logistics and administrative service.

RECEPTIONIST

Requirements:
- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree in any field.
- Applicants must be willing to work in Makati
- At least 6 months experience in the same capacity or responsibility
- Applicants must be willing to work on shifting or graveyard schedule
- Computer literate
- Should have good.interpersonal skills and with pleasing personality
- Must have excellent English conversational

Interested Applicants are requested to e-mail their resume to: hrd@cspacific.com or mail to ALL ASIA CUSTOMER SERVICES, INC. 9th Floor, Citibank Center, 8741 Paseo de Roxas cor. Villar St., Salcedo Village, Makati City

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MARCHANT STAINLESS FABRICATORS INC.

A manufacturer of stainless steel equipment

URGENTLY NEEDS THE FOLLOWING:

TIG WELDERS

Male, 20-30 years old.
Minimum of 2 years related work experience in stainless steel manufacturing.

TURRET PUNCH PRESS OPERATORS

Male, 23-35 years old.
With at least 2 years experience in metal sheet fabrication.

ESTIMATOR/DESIGNER

Male, 23-28 years old; Graduate of BS Mechanical Engineering.
Knows AutoCAD 2000 or 2002 Version.
Will be responsible for cost estimate and design of equipment; drawing preparations, site verification and installation of projects.

PRODUCTION SUPERVISORS – STAINLESS STEEL FABRICATION

Male, 25-35 years old. Graduate of any engineering or technical course.
MUST have at least 2 years production work experience focusing on metal fabrication.
Computer literate and with adequate technical skills.

QUALIFIED APPLICANTS MUST APPLY PERSONALLY TO:
THE CORPORATE RECRUITMENT SECTION
(BATTERY GROUP)
Ramcar Center, 80-82 Roces Avenue, Q.C.

** Previous applicants NEED NOT apply.*

GODIVA, INC.
natural skin care

needs the following:

IN-HOUSE DERMATOLOGISTS
- Free clinic space in mall location
- New graduates are welcome

FACIAL CARE MANAGER
- Female, graduate of medical related course
- Minimum of 2 years experience in supervisory capacity in a reputable facial care company

PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR
- Industrial Engineering graduate or any related course
- At least 2 years experience in similar capacity

FACIAL CARE AESTHETICIANS
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- With fair complexion & pleasing personality
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- Graduate of Fine Arts major in Advertising
- Must have extensive experience in design of brochures, print ads, and packaging

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- At least 2 years experience as buyer
- College graduate

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES
- With experience in selling to dermatologists, wellness centers & salon
- Familiar with skin care or hair care market

ONLINE STORE OPERATIONS STAFF
- BSBA or Management graduate
- Excellent oral and written communication skills

VAN SALESMAN
- Male, College graduate
- At least 1 year experience in van selling
- With professional driver's license
- Willing to post bond

RECEPTIONIST/HR CLERK
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- Graduate of psychology or any related course
- Proficient in oral & written communication

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2. BUSINESS DEV'T. & TRAINING EXECUTIVE

The Business Dev't and Training Executive will provide the support needed in maintaining existing accounts & injecting new ideas. Likewise, to develop the business & train the employees. Responsible for product & company presentations, report competitor's activities, formulate & implement marketing strategies & surveys other related issues.

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> With exp. in the prep. of training modules & analysis
> Must be willing to do field assisgnments
> At least 2 yrs. rel. work exp. in a supervisory position
> With pleasing personality and good comm. skills
> Must be able to relate well with diff. levels of the org.
> Can work with min. supervision and can handle pressure

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The Product Specialist will be responsible on how to maintain/improve product positioning & ensure the attainment of sales of the products & services we offer.

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- Must be CPA

Marketing Manager
Qualifications:
- At least 5 years work experience in sales, marketing, and operation in a service oriented industry
- Graduate of Business Administration preferably with masteral degree
- Excellent written and oral communication and presentation skills
- Result oriented with very good leadership and interpersonal skills
- Highly creative, innovative, flexible, and resourceful
- Computer literate

Programmer
Qualifications:
- With working knowledge using Visual Basic in a distributed environment
- Must be familiar in using MS SQL Servicer as DB platform
- Knowledge in using PHP or ASP scripts is an advantage
- Can work under minimum supervision
- Must be a team player
- With good oral and written communication skills

Marketing Executive
Qualifications:
- Must have at least two (2) years experience in the same or equivalent position in other companies
- With valid driver's license
- Must be willing to travel and/or accept assignments outside of area of assignment
- Must be at least a graduate of marketing or any business course

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Qualifications:
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Excellent English written and verbal communication skills. Ability to work independently, interact and communicate by phone with a variety of individual customers, and negotiate effectively. Detail-oriented. Acute sense of professionalism and confidentiality. Customer service orientation. Strong level of self-motivation. Resourceful, aggressive and persuasive. Willing to work on US time (graveyard shifts).

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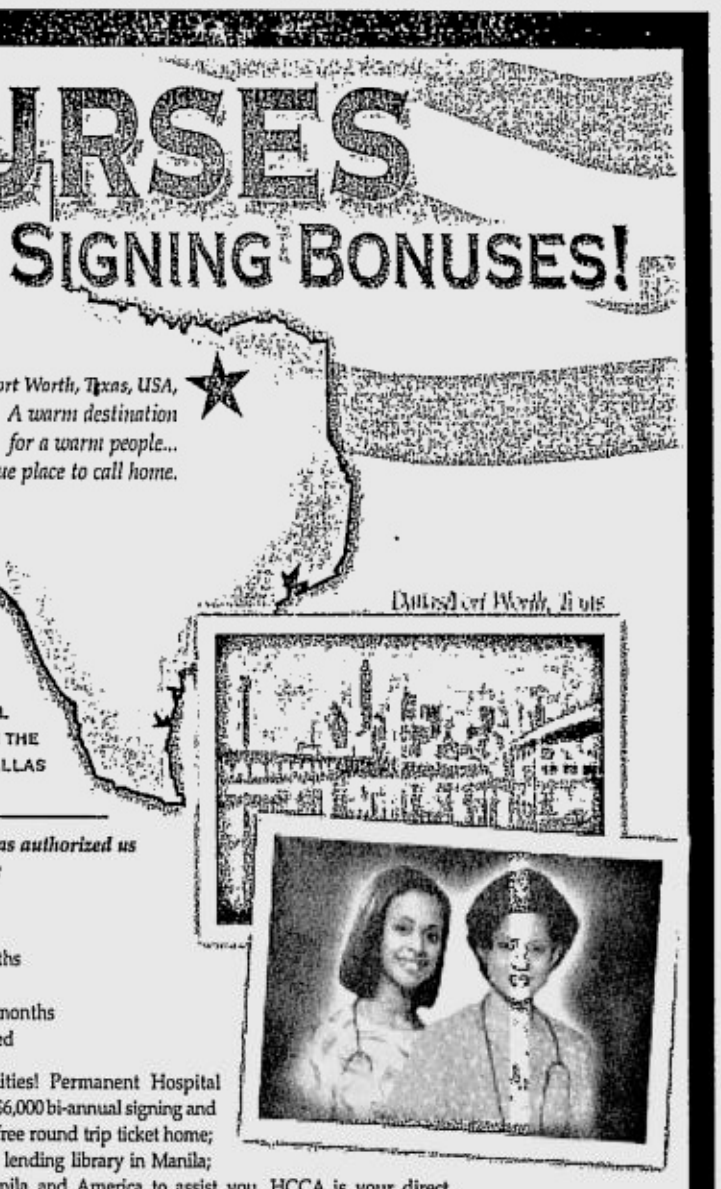

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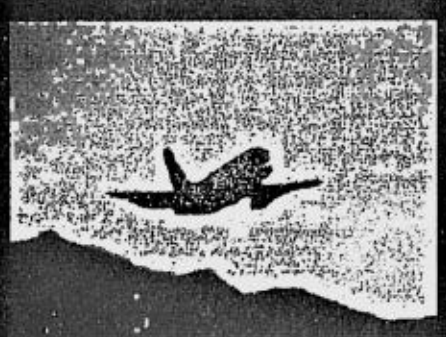

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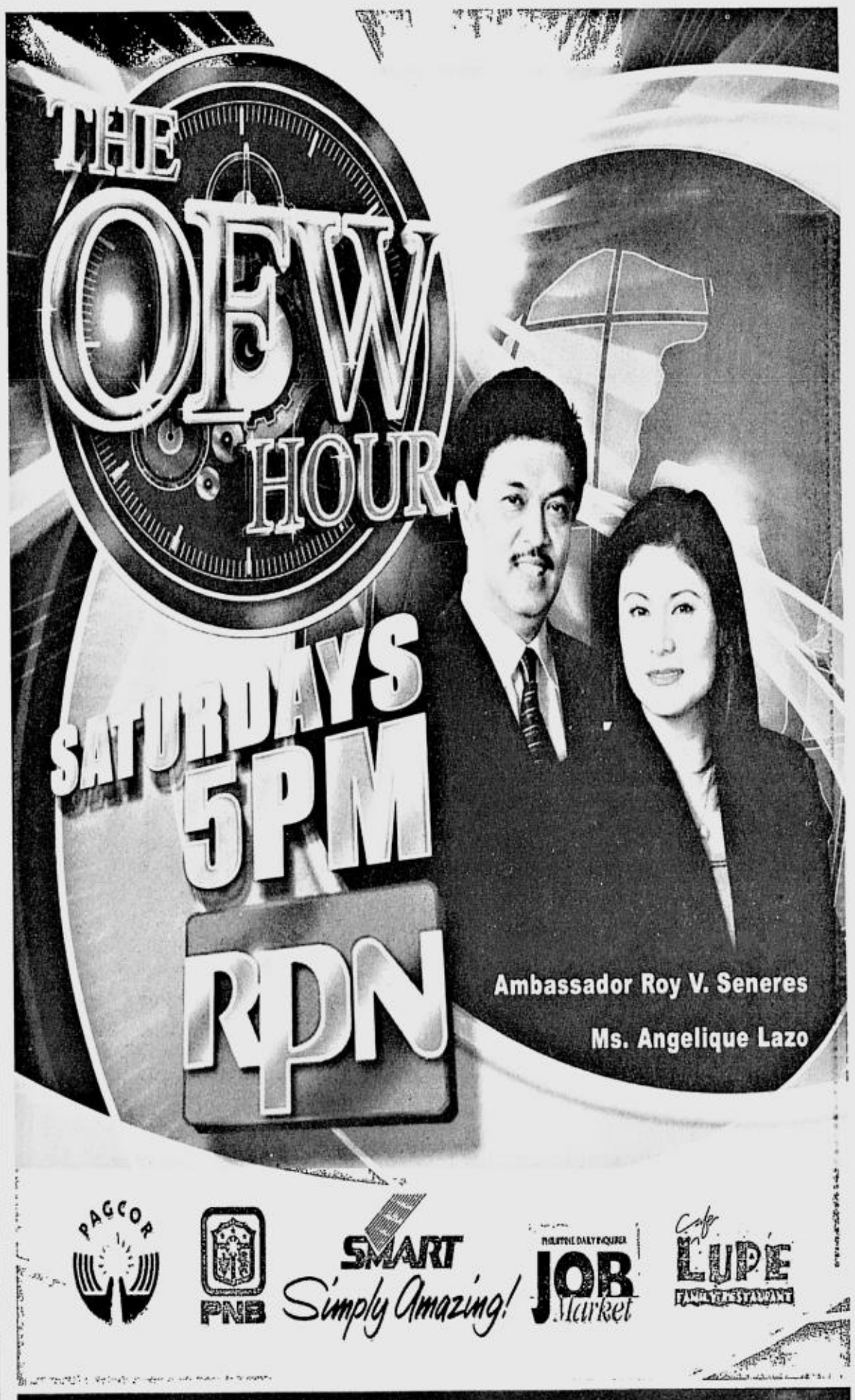


HR manager sees work as answered prayer

By Candy G. Villanueva

HR FOCUS

CLARO Isip believes divine intervention steered him to his vocation. For years, Isip immersed himself in the art of people development working for an NGO. But NGO work turned out to be simply a stepping-stone for a higher purpose. His greater service would be in human resources.

Lufthansa Technik Philippines is where Isip found his sense of purpose. He is presently HR Division Manager for the Personnel Services Division. He chose Lufthansa because "the company gives high regard to Filipinos, their craftsmanship, skills and values, thus, their presence in the Philippines." Isip goes further to say, "While most multinational companies are on a wait and see stance on the country's political and economic condition, Lufthansa Technik Philippines is on an upswing mode as evidenced by its recent infrastructure renovations, equipment upgrades, continuous development and training of its personnel particularly the aircraft mechanics."

Lufthansa Technik Philippines is a partnership between Lufthansa Technik AG and MacroAsia Corporation. Lufthansa Technik is one of the largest providers of aircraft maintenance, repair and overhaul services in the world. MacroAsia Corp. is a publicly listed Filipino corporation in the business of aviation support services like in-flight catering, ground handling and air taxi.

Godly life

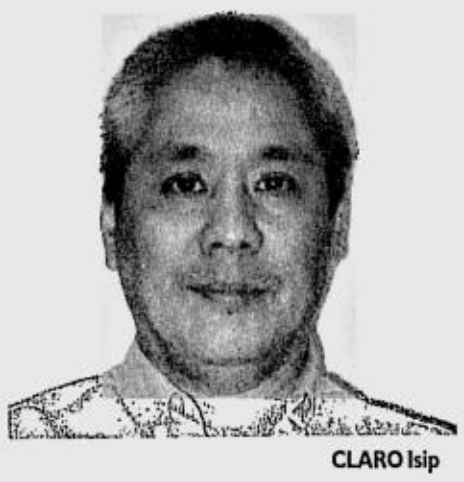
For Isip, God had a hand in every twist and turn in his life journey. The middle child of nine, Isip leads a far from comfortable life. "Life was not as gentle, especially when one begins to realize and feel that basic needs must be met. Quite early and without being told, I got to understand to make do with what is given," shares the grateful Isip. In spite of the difficulties growing up, Isip developed a happy disposition. "While struggles were constant, this did not stop me from enjoying the adventures of youth."

College was more difficult because he had to work his way through a decent education. In spite of this challenge, Isip carried on with a faithful and thankful heart. "I got myself into different employment conditions and status—piece rate, casual, contractual, probationary, etc. However, in every opportunity, I make it a point to learn and cherish the experience," recalls Isip. His faith and perseverance eventually paid off as he was lead to a life of service and fulfillment. Isip attests that his status in life right now is simply an answered prayer.

Divine intervention

Prior to working with Lufthansa, Isip devoted a decade of his life working as Development Manager for the Ayala Foundation. "God's word became real as it manifested in my ten years of NGO development work experience, inspiring and strengthening me daily."

After Ayala Foundation, Isip ventured into business. But the heavens had other plans for him. Like a ship forced to turn back by a storm, Isip's business was soon waylaid by the Asian economic crisis. Carefully, he waited until the economic turbulence subsided. Waiting out the storm turned out to be a blessing. "I was cautiously weighing other business prospects when an offer to handle HR work came along."



CLARO Isip

NGO development work experience prepared him for the challenges of human resources management. "The fundamentals of social development are all in HR except that it is more job or career focused. Surprisingly, some of my former colleagues from the NGO landed as HR practitioners as well," says Isip.

Think team

Isip brings his humorous outlook in life to the workplace. He takes his job seriously but is always mindful to enjoy it as well. "I add some fun, passion and compassion in whatever I do," shares the good-natured manager.

Lufthansa's HR Manager carries the same principles when it comes to people motivation. He strives to be a role model and sets an example of versatility and flexibility. While entrusted with authority, Isip feels that one should always be aware of his own abilities and limitations.

"I believe in shared responsibility or 'Think team.' The team members must be empowered. But empowerment must go together with responsibility and accountability," adds Isip.

Life plan

Success is mainly a balancing act for the devout Isip. He says, "Try your very best to have a balanced personal and career life." The balancing act is achieved with a plan. Isip suggests starting with realistic goals and ambitions. Gleaning wisdom from his difficult past, he tries to make room for risks in order to prepare for the punches of life.

"It's best to have plans that conform with your family, social, religious or spiritual lifestyle." When mapping out his life plan, Isip makes sure that God is always on top guiding his course. Isip sees his job as an opportunity to give back for the blessing of a balanced life. "While challenges are entwined with the breath of life, I still look forward to working or doing any gainful activities in any field of people development as an expression of endless thanks to God, family, community and country."

How do you keep yourself motivated at work?

DEAR WW: I have a job I've liked for many years but lately, I've lost my motivation. I'm coming in late because I don't want to get out of bed to go. I keep thinking this will pass but it hasn't. Any suggestions?
Asleep at the Wheel

WORKING WOUNDED
Bob Rosner

Maybe you should apply for a job with the European Space Agency. They're looking for volunteers willing to spend three months in bed! Scientists want to learn more about the psychological effects of weightlessness, so they're chasing volunteers interested in a few months of non-stop pillow talk.

Of course, if you'd rather hang onto your current job, you need to find a way to motivate yourself out of bed each morning. Below are some tips to get you going. For more, check out Jennifer Kushell's "Young Entrepreneurs Edge" (Random House, 1999).

Is there a pattern? Keep track of when you run late. Is it a day of the week? What you're working on? Tied to last night's bender? Try to pinpoint the problem so you can tackle it.

Can you reduce your energy drains? Look for anything—or anyone—that demotivates you. A negative coworker? Try to move your desk, minimize conversation and in general, put distance between you. Tasks you hate? Do them first thing in the morning and get them over with so you can look forward to the rest of the day.

Figure out which things suck you dry, then find ways to minimize their impact.

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AMA American Management Association
TRAINING WORKS
eccp EUROPEAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF THE PHILIPPINES

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For further information, please call Jasmin Runez at telephone numbers 8451324 or 7596680 or e-mail at jrunez@eccp.com

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

The country's leading newspaper is looking for:

AUDIT SUPERVISOR

Qualifications:
- Accounting graduate, a Certified Public Accountant
- Preferably with MBA units
- 2 years experience in accounting and audit work, 1 year management experience
- Knowledge of General Accounting and Auditing Principles and Procedures
- Knowledge of Standards for Professional Practice of Internal auditing
- Knowledge of Financial Data analysis, Taxation, Labor Laws.

Responsibilities:
- Supervises audit projects in order to ensure systems and procedures are implemented.
- Audits based on IIA and dept standards to ensure compliance
- Prepares communicates audit reports based on the evaluation/findings and recommends appropriate actions.

PMS ASSISTANT

Qualifications:
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LIBRARY ASSISTANT

Qualifications:
- Graduate of Library Science
- 1-2 years experience in this job or any related job
- Knowledge of basic library keeping principles

Mail your application letter and comprehensive resumé to:

HR MANAGEMENT SERVICES HEAD
Philippine Daily Inquirer
Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo)
Corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City

E-mail: recruitment@inquirer.com.ph

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HR manager sees work as answered prayer

By Candy G. Villanueva

HR FOCUS

CLARO Isip believes divine intervention steered him to his vocation. For years, Isip immersed himself in the art of people development working for an NGO. But NGO work turned out to be simply a stepping-stone for a higher purpose. His greater service would be in human resources.

Lufthansa Technik Philippines is where Isip found his sense of purpose. He is presently HR Division Manager for the Personnel Services Division. He chose Lufthansa because "the company gives high regard to Filipinos, their craftsmanship, skills and values, thus, their presence in the Philippines." Isip goes further to say, "While most multinational companies are on a wait and see stance on the country's political and economic condition, Lufthansa Technik Philippines is on an upswing mode as evidenced by its recent infrastructure renovations, equipment upgrades, continuous development and training of its personnel particularly the aircraft mechanics."

Lufthansa Technik Philippines is a partnership between Lufthansa Technik AG and MacroAsia Corporation. Lufthansa Technik is one of the largest providers of aircraft maintenance, repair and overhaul services in the world. MacroAsia Corp. is a publicly listed Filipino corporation in the business of aviation support services like in-flight catering, ground handling and air taxi.

Godly life

For Isip, God had a hand in every twist and turn in his life journey. The middle child of nine, Isip leads a far from comfortable life. "Life was not as gentle, especially when one begins to realize and feel that basic needs must be met. Quite early and without being told, I got to understand to make do with what is given," shares the grateful Isip. In spite of the difficulties growing up, Isip developed a happy disposition. "While struggles were constant, this did not stop me from enjoying the adventures of youth."

College was more difficult because he had to work his way through a decent education. In spite of this challenge, Isip carried on with a faithful and thankful heart. "I got myself into different employment conditions and status—piece rate, casual, contractual, probationary, etc. However, in every opportunity, I make it a point to learn and cherish the experience," recalls Isip. His faith and perseverance eventually paid off as he was lead to a life of service and fulfillment. Isip attests that his status in life right now is simply an answered prayer.

Divine intervention

Prior to working with Lufthansa, Isip devoted a decade of his life working as Development Manager for the Ayala Foundation. "God's word became real as it manifested in my ten years of NGO development work experience, inspiring and strengthening me daily."

After Ayala Foundation, Isip ventured into business. But the heavens had other plans for him. Like a ship forced to turn back by a storm, Isip's business was soon waylaid by the Asian economic crisis. Carefully, he waited until the economic turbulence subsided. Waiting out the storm turned out to be a blessing. "I was cautiously weighing other business prospects when an offer to handle HR work came along."

NGO development work experience prepared him for the challenges of human resources management. "The fundamentals of social development are all in HR except that it is more job or career focused. Surprisingly, some of my former colleagues from the NGO landed as HR practitioners as well," says Isip.

Think team

Isip brings his humorous outlook in life to the workplace. He takes his job seriously but is always mindful to enjoy it as well. "I add some fun, passion and compassion in whatever I do," shares the good-natured manager.

Lufthansa's HR Manager carries the same principles when it comes to people motivation. He strives to be a role model and sets an example of versatility and flexibility. While entrusted with authority, Isip feels that one should always be aware of his own abilities and limitations.

"I believe in shared responsibility or 'Think team.' The team members must be empowered. But empowerment must go together with responsibility and accountability," adds Isip.

CLARO Isip

Life plan

Success is mainly a balancing act for the devout Isip. He says, "Try your very best to have a balanced personal and career life." The balancing act is achieved with a plan. Isip suggests starting with realistic goals and ambitions. Gleaning wisdom from his difficult past, he tries to make room for risks in order to prepare for the punches of life.

"It's best to have plans that conform with your family, social, religious or spiritual lifestyle." When mapping out his life plan, Isip makes sure that God is always on top guiding his course. Isip sees his job as an opportunity to give back for the blessing of a balanced life. "While challenges are entwined with the breath of life, I still look forward to working or doing any gainful activities in any field of people development as an expression of endless thanks to God, family, community and country."

How do you keep yourself motivated at work?

DEAR WW: I have a job I've liked for many years but lately, I've lost my motivation. I'm coming in late because I don't want to get out of bed to go. I keep thinking this will pass but it hasn't. Any suggestions?
Asleep at the Wheel

WORKING WOUNDED
Bob Rosner

Maybe you should apply for a job with the European Space Agency. They're looking for volunteers willing to spend three months in bed! Scientists want to learn more about the psychological effects of weightlessness, so they're chasing volunteers interested in a few months of non-stop pillow talk.

Of course, if you'd rather hang onto your current job, you need to find a way to motivate yourself out of bed each morning. Below are some tips to get you going. For more, check out Jennifer Kushell's "Young Entrepreneurs Edge" (Random House, 1999).

Is there a pattern? Keep track of when you run late. Is it a day of the week? What you're working on? Tied to last night's bender? Try to pinpoint the problem so you can tackle it.

Can you reduce your energy drains? Look for anything—or anyone—that demotivates you. A negative coworker? Try to move your desk, minimize conversation and in general, put distance between you. Tasks you hate? Do them first thing in the morning and get them over with so you can look forward to the rest of the day.

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E-mail: recruitment@inquirer.com.ph

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TRICOM Dynamics, Inc. was launched in September 1991, and ranks among the Top 1000 Corporations in the Philippines. TDI offers a comprehensive line of ***TOSHIBA Information and Communication Systems*** and is the exclusive distributor of ***TOSHIBA Pocket PCs, Notebook PCs, Digital and Analog copiers, and Multifunction Facsimile Machines.*** We also distribute ***TOSHIBA LCD data projectors.*** With world-class TOSHIBA products, Tricom Dynamics is able to integrate the one-stop shop and full customer service concepts.

In line with our expansion program, we need young, assertive and dynamic individuals for the following position/s:

SALES EXECUTIVES

(for Toshiba Copiers, Fax machines, Notebook PCs, LCD data projectors)

- Fresh graduate of a 4-year course from a reputable school; Business, Marketing or Engineering graduates *preferred, but not necessary*
- Determined to pursue a career in field sales
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- Pleasant personality, and with strong persuasive abilities
- Hardworking, energetic and results-oriented

SALES EXECUTIVES are entitled to salaries & allowances as well as commissions & incentives. Consistent sales performers can look forward to yearly all-expense paid incentive trips to Asian cities, the US East & West Coast, Australia, New Zealand or Europe. ******

BRANCH SUPERVISOR

(Cagayan de Oro)

- Graduate of a 4-year business course; preferably between the ages of 28 - 35
- With minimum 2 years experience in a supervisory capacity in a service-oriented organization
- Experience in marketing, sales & business management (preferably in a similar line of business)
- Strong drive and determination for growth, efficiency and profit; Honest and trustworthy
- Resident of, or willing to relocate to, Cagayan de Oro
- Proficiency in the Visayan/Cebuano dialect would be an advantage
- Salary is negotiable based on qualifications

INFORMATION SYSTEMS SPECIALIST

- Fresh graduate of Computer Science or equivalent, from reputable school
- Mastery of:
  - systems analysis and design
  - programming in C or pascal
- Knowledge of SQL and client-server programming
- Preferably knows python, delphi, OO analysis and design
- Highly analytical; Self-motivated; Team player

IT OPERATION & SUPPORT SPECIALIST

- Fresh graduate of Computer Science or Computer Engineering or equivalent
- Knows how to assemble/disassemble PC-based computer, and to install different OS (Win9x/2k/xp/FreeBSD/OpenBSD/NetBSD/Linux)
- Knowledgeable in the following:
  - data networking (TCP/IP, IPX/SPX)
  - scripting (python/perl/sh/csh/ksh/batch)
  - SQL (structured query language)
  - cryptography and ipsec
- Team player, and service-oriented

SALES SUPPORT CLERK

- Fresh graduate of any 4-year course
- Good interpersonal and communication skills
- Pleasant personality
- Hardworking and with patience for details
- Computer literate (Word, Excel and Powerpoint)

The TRICOM Group has a complement of 300 officers and staff, and offers a compensation and benefits package above industry standards. Successful applicants can look forward to benefits such as life and accident insurance, health maintenance and hospitalization, productivity bonus, office uniforms, etc.

Interested applicants can send their resumes', transcript of records, recent photo, and contact phone numbers to:

Personnel Department, TRICOM
2/F Metro House, 345 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City
Or send your resume' (.txt, rtf or html format, not doc) via e-mail to: **hr@tricom.com.ph**
Or visit our website: **www.tricom.com.ph**

AXA PHILIPPINE AXA LIFE

WE ARE LOOKING FOR THE BEST AND THE BRIGHTEST TO BE PART OF THE FIRST AND THE BEST…

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The position entails motivating, inspiring and leading a team of professional advisers to meet sales targets by objectively evaluating and assessing performance against agreed standards.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- **30 – 40 years old**
- **Must be a college graduate with at least 2 years business experience with a successful track record in sales or customer service environment.**
- **Must have managerial experience**

FINANCIAL EXECUTIVES (FE) for METRO MANILA, CAVITE, BATANGAS, LAGUNA, BULACAN, DAGUPAN, OLONGAPO, BAGUIO, BENGUET, LA UNION, ILOCOS SUR, TUGUEGARAO

The position entails meeting with clients, analyzing their personal financial background, advising them on appropriate action to be taken and concluding the sale of appropriate products and services and a lot of relationship building.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- **25 – 35 years old**
- **Must be a college graduate with at least 2 years professional experience with a successful track record not necessarily in the Financial Services Industry**
- **A background in pharmaceutical, airlines, stock trading, real estate, retail sales, banking or insurance will be an advantage**

SKILLS & QUALITIES OF THE AREA MANAGER & FINANCIAL EXECUTIVE:

- **Good interpersonal skills**
- **Excellent oral & written communication skills**
- **Sound analytical / numerical skills**
- **Effective judgment and comprehension**
- **Confident disposition/positive nature & outlook**
- **Ability to listen**

Qualified candidates should send their resume, transcript of records and a 2" x 2" photo by Friday, 27th of February 2004 to

THE HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
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may.soneja@axa.com.ph or visit our website at www.axa.com.ph

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Trustworthy and Independent-minded
Computer Literate
Analytical and can work under pressure

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QUALIFICATIONS

Male or Female; Not over 35 years old
Licensed Criminologist
Extensive exposure in Legal / Security investigation preferably from NBI / PNP / Retail / Manufacturing establishment
Computer Literate

Applicants may apply personally at:
EMPLOYMENT DEPARTMENT
Ground Floor, EHA Building
Duty Free Fiestamall
Ninoy Aquino Ave., Parañaque City
Application is on February 23-27, 2004
(Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

REQUIREMENTS
Printed Resumé, 1 pc. 2x2 picture
Photocopy & Original of NBI Clearance (less than 1 year old),
Birth Certificate & Transcript of Records

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- Male, not more than 40 years old; Graduate of any four-year course preferably Business or Marketing course; Minimum of 5 years related experience, 3 years of which in Managerial capacity; Excellent communication, selling, time-management, human relations, presentation and organization skills; Must be able to meet the Corporate Objectives of the Company through accurate Sales Forecast & efficient Sales Management; Ability to develope specific Sales Plans & pro-active strategies & campaigns; Professional appearance and presentation is required and should possess valid driver's license

WAREHOUSE SUPERVISOR

- Male/Female, not more than 35 years old, graduate of B S. Industrial Engineering; With strong leadership, problem solving, decision making and communication skills; Handled inventory control management in a supervisory capacity for at least two (2) years; Computer literate

SALES REPRESENTATIVE

- Male, not more than 30 years old; College level; Minimum of 3 years experience in Sales; Possess effective communication & selling skills; Must be able to promote efficient customer relations to all clients and introduce new product lines; Ability to maintain/establish new accounts to ensure sales growth; Aggressive and has the strong ability to influence potential customers

PROGRAMMER

- Male/Female, not more than 30 years old; At least two (2) years, relevant experience in industrial set-up, SQL Server, Power Builder, Recital FoxPro for DOS, Visual FoxPro, Visual 6.0 Programming & MS Exchange; Administer data base management in an HR UNIX and WINDOWS NT 4.0; Must be able to provide technical and network support; With knowledge in hardware troubleshooting; Preferably with work experience in System Analysis and Design

PRODUCT MERCHANDISER

- Female, not more than 35 years old, graduate of any four-year course; Must have at least 3 years related experience as a Merchandiser preferably for lingerie; With knowledge in buying/sourcing, pricing, inventory control and product development; Sales-oriented; with very good oral and written communication skills and relate well at all levels of the organization

GRAPHIC/CREATIVE ARTIST

- Male/Female, not more than 28 years old; Fine Arts graduate of any related course; For Graphic Artist, at least 3 years solid experience is required and must be able to prepare and create latest graphic designs for underwear packaging, labels and promo materials; For Creative Artist, experience is not required however candidate must be highly creative and talented in making various artworks such as floral and embroidery designs; Knowledge in PC or Machintosh graphic software and web-based graphic applications such as Photoshop, Freehand and the likes are necessary

ELECTRICIAN

- Male, not more than 35 years old; With college background or vocational course in a related field; Must have at least 2 years related work experience; Preferably with knowledge in motor-rewinding and air-con repair

Qualified applicants may apply personally and bring resumé with 2x2 picture at:

299-335 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City
Tel. Nos.: 716-7791 to 93

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- Male and / or Female, 30-40 years old
- College graduate, from reputable universities and colleges
- At least 3 years of experience on a similar job function
- Preferably with experience working with a security agency
- Very good in oral & written communications
- With technical and practical knowledge in computers (Microsoft Office) and different security equipments & logistics
- Must be of high integrity and maturity
- Honest, Hardworking, Team player, Flexible, Can perform multi tasks
- With good analytical, organizational and people management skills

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- Background in Financial Services is a plus.
- Computer proficient in Microsoft Excel, Word, and other computer applications.
- Flexible and can work during the graveyard shift/shifting schedule.
- Has an excellent command of the English language.
- Is customer-focused and service-oriented.
- Preferably residing in the South Area (Alabang, Parañaque, Laguna, & Cavite) or willing to be relocated, but not a must.
- Able to combine work and play.

Call Center Associate for Technical Support

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- Team-oriented, Self-Motivated, and Performance-Oriented.
- Computer proficient in Microsoft Excel, Word, and other computer applications.
- Flexible and can work during the graveyard shift/shifting schedule.
- Ability to build productive working relationships.
- Willing to travel when required, willing to travel to another site within Metro Manila and the Philippines.

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PEOPLE AT WORK PULSE

Are homosexuals accepted in the workplace?

By Eric Daniel L. Soriano and Gina M. Hechanova

CHRIS Reyes, 26, has worked as a volunteer high school teacher, sales representative for a pharmaceutical company and is currently a campus minister in a well-respected university in Manila. Working for different organizations for almost five years now, Chris is openly gay and proud of it.

There are thousands of people like Chris who are productive members of the workforce across various fields. Although some Pinoy comedy flicks, sitcoms and noontime variety shows continue to negatively portray homosexuals in a stereotypical (and often degrading) manner, more and more companies are seeing the positive contributions their gay or lesbian employees bring to their organizations.

Survey results

People at Work Pulse wanted to see how our readers view homosexuals in the workplace. Of the 35 respondents, 43 percent were male and 57 percent are female. Respondents belonged to a variety of organization—43 percent were employed in private organizations, 34 percent in the government, 11 percent belong to the academe, 6 percent in NGOs and another 6 percent from religious organizations.

All our respondents had experienced working with homosexuals: majority (77 percent) as coworkers, 20 percent as subordinates, 14 percent as clients/students, and 26 percent as a boss. Of these responses, nine indicated having working experiences with homosexuals in at least two levels mentioned above.

Though the sample size was quite small, the results of our survey are encouraging. Asked on how they feel working with homosexuals, most of our respondents (69 percent) say that they are totally comfortable working with gays or lesbians. Thirty-one percent, on the other hand, feel that they have no problems as long as they act "straight" with them. It is encouraging to know that not one mentioned that they try to have minimum contact or are not comfortable working with homosexuals at all.

Competence

On how they feel if a homosexual applies for a position in their company, 60 percent said it's okay as long as they are very competent. Thirty-seven percent say that a person's sexual preferences does not matter. Only one respondent (3 percent) feel that they shouldn't be accepted in their company.

Last month's survey also asked our readers to rate three statements using a scale of one to five ranging from strongly disagree to strongly agree. Majority of our respondents disagreed that homosexuals are discriminated in their workplace. In fact, only two agreed to this statement. Similarly, a lot of our readers disagreed that it will be hard to get promoted to top positions if one is homosexual. Almost the same respondents also agreed that homosexuals are treated the same as everyone else in the workplace with only three giving dissenting opinions.

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT G. RODRIGUEZ

Although it is not evident in the results, there are those who still feel that certain organizations tend to discriminate in hiring homosexuals. An HR head of a company involved in retail and manufacturing who requested anonymity, admitted that they don't accept homosexual employees. She shares a not-so-good experience with a gay worker as a reason for this.

Laws

Is there a law protecting qualified homosexual workers from such discriminatory practices? Unfortunately, not yet. The Philippine Constitution and the Labor Code promote equality of employment opportunities for all, regardless of sex, race or creed. The word "sex" in the pertinent provision of the Labor Code, however, is only defined as either the male or female gender and does not include sexual preference (homosexual, bisexual or heterosexual). But there is hope. Last year, Sen. Loi Estrada authored Senate bill 1982 that prohibits employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. This covers practically all sectors,except religious organizations. However, this bill has yet to be enacted into law.

But if the result of the our survey is an indication of how today's Filipino working professionals see this issue, the prevailing view is that at the end of the day, we would like to believe that it's not a question whether you're black or white, blind or deaf, gay or straight. It is whether you deliver the goods that matters most.

(Eric Soriano is a graduate student of the Ateneo de Manila University Department of Psychology. Gina Hechanova is faculty member of Ateneo and Director for Research and OD at Ateneo Center for Organization Research and Development. They may be contacted via ateneocord@admu.edu.ph.)

Perceptions on call center work

PEOPLE AT WORK Pulse

THIS "pulse" check is conducted once a month. The results of this poll will be published the following month. Philippine Daily Inquirer and Ateneo CORD will be giving gift packages to two respondents to be drawn from those who replied for the month.

Winners for last month's survey are: Norie Malasarte and Julie Rose Bagasbas. Please get your gifts from People at Work Office at tel. no. 897-8808 local 554.

1. What do you think is attractive about working in a call center? (Choose five statements and rank from 1-5 where 1 is the highest ranking statement)
   a. High starting salary ___
   b. Incentive programs ___
   c. Global business ___
   d. Working environment ___
   e. Availability of job openings ___
   f. Challenging work ___
   g. Career opportunities ___
   h. Stability ___
   i. Training provided ___
   j. Growth of the industry ___
2. I think that working in a call center can be ... (check only one)
   a. A long-term career
   b. A short-term stint (1-2 years)
   c. A temporary job
   d. Not a career option

For the following questions, please indicate the number corresponding to your agreement with: 1- strongly disagree;2 - disagree; 3 - neutral; 4- agree; 5 - strongly agree

3. Working in a call center is stressful.
4. People who work in call centers are generally young.
5. In general, people think highly of working in a call center.
6. Being a call center customer service representative is a dead-end job.
7. Do you work in a call center? (check only one)
   a. I'm currently working in one.
   b. I used to work in one.
   c. I plan to work in one.
   d. I have no plans of working in one.

Name:_____
Gender:_____CivilStatus: _____
Nature of Job: _____
Company Name: _____
Industry: _____
Tel/Mobile/Email: _____

Mail or fax this form or email-text your answers to:

People at Work Pulse
Ateneo Center for Organization Research & Development (Ateneo CORD)
2nd Flr Hoffner Bldg., Social Development Complex
Ateneo de Manila University
Loyola Heights, Quezon City
Fax No. (632) 426-6065 Email: ateneocord@admu.edu.ph
Or text answers to (0920) 831-9522. Write: topic 1.(answer), 2. (answer), etc. name, gender, status, position, company, address, contact numbers or email address.

JOBZ Resumé Central AT Onstage GREENBELT

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"JOBZ Resumé Central"
at Onstage Greenbelt in Makati.

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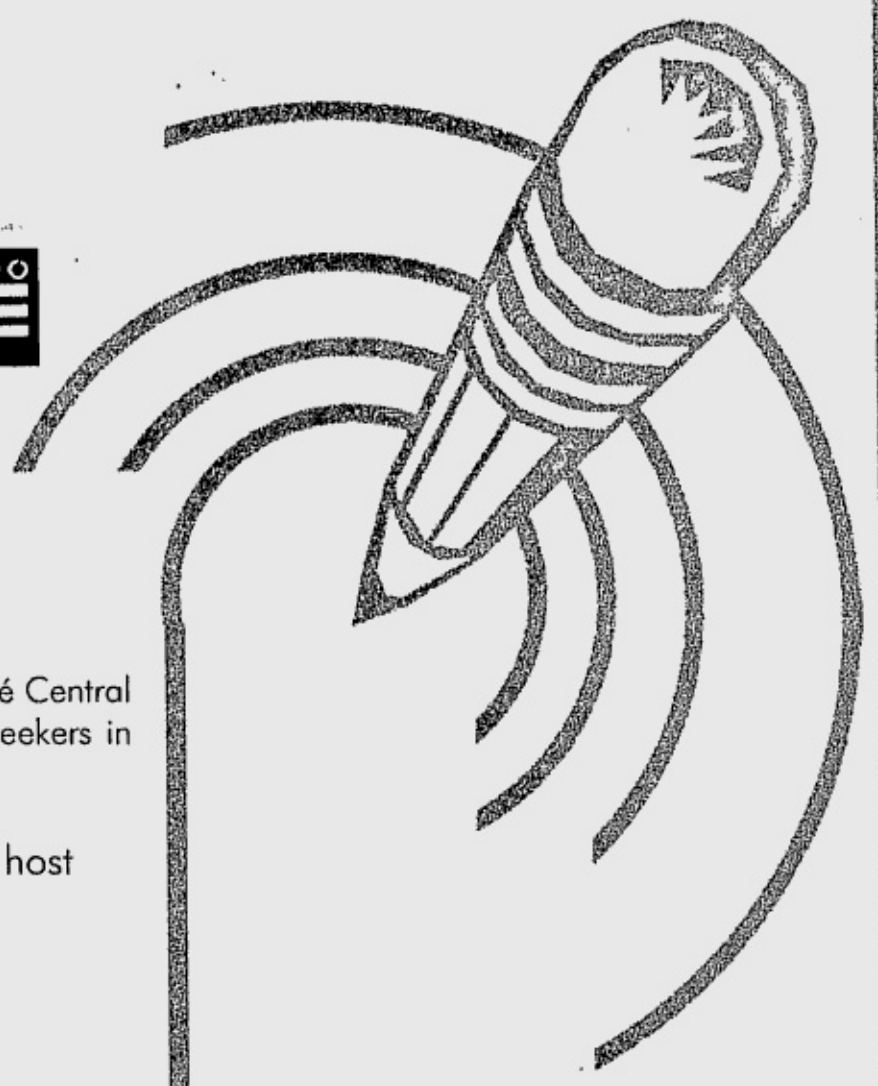
JOBZ AT Onstage GREENBELT

Resumé Central



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- Input your resumés directly into Resumé Reserve via our computers
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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2004
Sunday PEOPLE at WORK
Contributing Editor Regina Galang Reyes

Follow Golden Rule at work

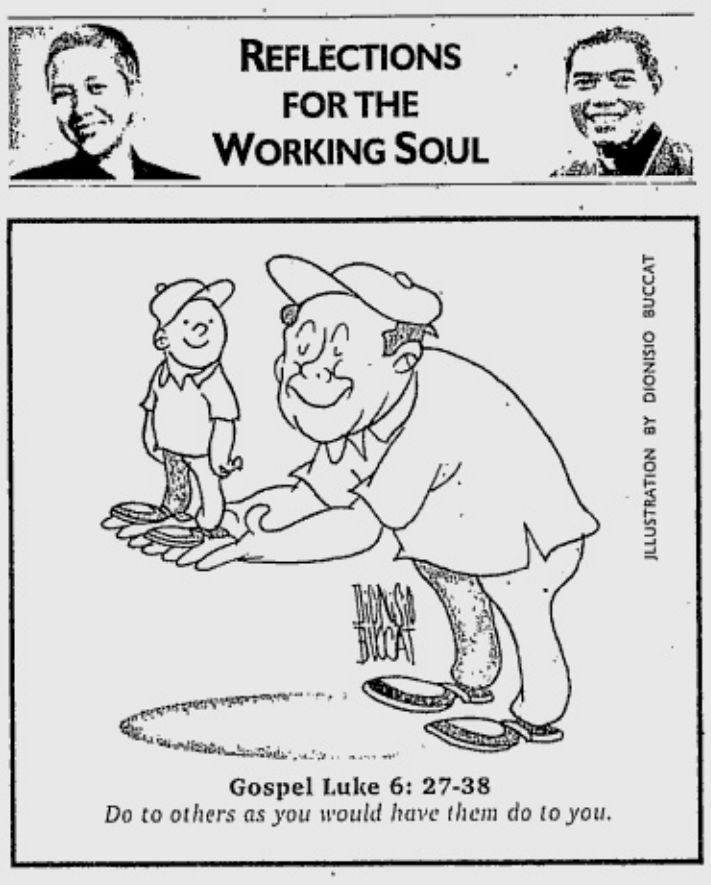
Working for others

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB,DD

JESUS, in His preaching and life clearly exhorts all of us to "do to others" what we would love others do to us—doing good for the others. The emphasis in this teaching is in the "doing to others" rather than in "expecting what others do to us." He affirms this by his dying on the cross; He offered His life for us all, convincing us that "there is no greater love than this that a man lays down his life for the beloved." Jesus shows all of us that life is worth living only if it is spent for the other.

The worker, to my mind, is in the position to "spend his life" for the others in imitation of Jesus' dying on the cross for us, His beloved. There are workers in the service industry who spend their time and energy serving others. They work with and directly for people. In this kind of work, it is vital that the worker does his job in a way that he wants others to do it. It is important for the waiter, for example, to serve the customers the way he himself would have others serve him. Otherwise, this waiter will certainly be in trouble.

Other workers in the manufacturing industries and in those which deal directly on machines, systems, or structures more than with people may think they are not doing something for the others. But in reality, every task a worker does, even the most insignificant, and seemingly impersonal, ultimately has a bearing on the "other"—persons in the workplace, home, and larger society. Every worker who keeps the "other" foremost in his mind and heart while working, and pours out all his energies with love and devotion to his work, imitates Jesus who laid down His life for us. (*E-mail the author at* mfvg@skyinet.net)



Gospel Luke 6: 27-38
Do to others as you would have them do to you.

When is gold, gold?

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

"DO to others as you would have them do to you" has come to be called the "golden rule." Because—as its adherents claim—it assures fairness and justice in human relationships, it is like gold, a precious metal. They give many examples, among them: "If you want others to be a good friend to you, be a good friend to them. If you want others to respect you, respect them first. If you want others to be honest with you, be honest with them." But does it always work that way? Gold, the metal, may be imperishable, but is the golden rule incorruptible?

Bernie and Ricky, both married and in their 30s, are not only good friends; as employees in the same brewery they're also great team players in the workplace. They even live in the same neighborhood and share common friends. One day, Bernie bumped into his high school sweetheart; soon after they had an affair—of course, behind his wife's back. Bernie would "work overtime" two nights a week and only his good friend Ricky knew. "*Pare, ayokong masaktan si* Mrs.," Bernie would say and expect Ricky to cover up for him, which the latter did. Two months later, Ricky met and fell madly in love with a college coed doing OJT in their company. As might be expected, Bernie knew, and returned the favor by covering up for Ricky to "protect the wife's feelings." Both men followed the "golden rule," but for what end?

The "golden rule" can only guide man's actions when founded on the loftiest principles of love—such as Jesus taught. Other than that, it can only be a tool for corruption. (*E-mail the author at* avemaria@csi.com.ph)

What's inside

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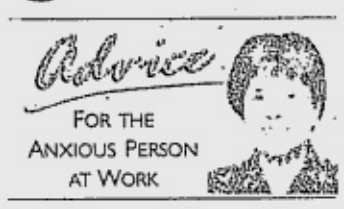
Retrenchments traumatize surviving workers

By Tita Datu Puangco



I AM an executive who worked with a local bookstore. Up until last August, I have been a model worker, gainfully employed and surviving in my place of work.

Some consultants came in March and retrenched 154 people, including me. Prior to the retrenchment, they bullied, maligned and diminished the self-worth of the employees. My co-employees and I stuck it out for fear of losing our jobs. They also replaced key personnel with their own people. Hiring and firing were indiscriminate. Some 40 people resigned prior to the retrenchment, including the CEOs.

Last November, with the blessing of management, they again retrenched a second batch of employees.The consultants then made changes with regard to employee benefits and have not remitted our SSS payments. Employees still within the company also report that their 13th month pay had not been given in full due to tax deductions. But the company has yet to give our tax refunds. They allege that the company is bankrupt but said consultants are being paid millions. Their hirees get a minimum of P30,000 monthly, which is more than half of what I used to get for my four years of service to the company.

There are reports of a third batch to be retrenched by the first quarter of this year, scaring the remaining workers. How can mere employees like us be protected? A case has been filed with DOLE but all the employees are still vulnerable. My co-employees, who are still in that company, are too afraid to resign and become jobless. How can they cope in an environment like that? Are there career counselors in the Philippines who can also help workers recover from the trauma of situations like this?

Hope you can give light to my situation, and others like me. Thank you!

Mister Mismanaged

I am very touched by the situation of the workers who were retrenched without any help in terms of managing personal change. I will not comment on the labor issues stated in your letter since a case has already been filed with the Department of Labor and Employment. Furthermore, I have little expertise in this area.

I will not also comment on the manner that the consulting company handled the situation. It would be unethical since I do not know their side or management's side. What I want to focus on is how to help you in areas where I have some level of control or influence.

Yes, there are counselors who can help workers recover from the trauma of situations similar to this. Those who think they need such help can send their requests to our e-mail address. We at Ancilla will try to see if we could have some of our consultants give time to help out. We may also have readers who are ready and available to do some coaching and counseling. Write me and we can come together to determine a common approach.

Let me briefly outline some basic steps in managing personal change such as the loss of a job. Typically, a person psychologically has to recognize the endings, then, he experiences a neutral zone or a wilderness experience, and finally, he moves on to looking at new beginnings. You can also map out the personal change process for yourself.

The process starts with laying the loss to rest. Identify the losses inherent in the change and acknowledge it, together with the accompanying feelings. Second is to confront your worst fears. Identify your worst fears and check if they are valid or not. Third is to focus on new possibilities. Identify what they might be. If you are able to successfully tap them, determine what you would think or feel. You can also identify what habits will no longer work and what or who of the past you need to let go. Fourth, decide on some actions. What five little actions can you take to move toward the possibilities? What would be your learning objectives for said actions?

Those of you interested to get into new jobs have the following courses of action: look at classified ads like Inquirer's Job Market, ask for vacancies among friends and family, and join job fairs. You have to prepare your resumes and get ready for interviews. If you seek some career coaching, please make a request but also accompany it with your resume.

But the better alternative is to create your own job. Go entrepreneurial. To find out more about part time businesses you can attend a networking night on Feb. 24 at San Miguel Pueblo, St. Francis Square in Ortigas. But you would need to register before you go at neil.palabrical@summitmedia.com.ph.

Wishing you only the best. God bless you.

(*Ms Puangco is CEO and chair of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. Send feedback through e-mail to* advice@ancillaedc.com.ph *or fax to 892-2902.*)

Seminar series helps people at work discover 'the purpose-driven work'

WE constantly search for meaning, values and purpose in our lives. This search reflects our desire to connect with the spirit within us and with a Higher Being. In this spiritual connection, we hope to find meaning, values and purpose to our existence.

In the workplace where many of us devote a major portion of our lives, this search continues. We want to find work that has meaning, value and purpose in our lives or, in other words, "the purpose-driven work."

Tunay Neri Agustin

Lenten offering

As a Lenten offering for people at work and job seekers, **Optimus Innovations, Inc.** is offering the **Reflections at Work Seminar Series** on **March 29, 30 and 31, 2004 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.** at the **Santiago Hall, Mezzanine, Equitable PCI Bank Tower 1, H. V. de la Costa St. corner Makati Ave., Makati City.**

This seminar series will help us understand the importance of infusing spirituality at work to uncover ways by which we can align our work in accordance with our spiritual values, facilitate the process of personal and organizational healing and transformation, and discover and create a vision of a spiritually-infused workplace that will help employees and organizations achieve their purposes on earth.

Optimus Innovations, Inc. is the learning company of Optimus Managers and Advisors, Inc., known as the pioneer in popular learning events, having organized the highly successful Philippine Daily Inquirer's People at Work Live! Seminar Series and ABS-CBN Publishing Inc.'s Metro Working Mom Live! Seminar Series.

The Reflections at Work Seminar Series will tackle three learning sessions as follows: **"Living Our Spiritual Values at Work: Reflections for the Working Soul"** for March 29 (Monday), **"Building a Spiritual Community at Work: Reflections for the Organizational Soul"** for March 30 (Tuesday), and **"Enhancing SQ (Spiritual Intelligence) in Leadership: Reflections for the Leader's Soul"** for March 31 (Wednesday).

Seasoned resource persons

The resource person for the first day is Teresa Reyes Tunay, who writes the popular column, "Reflections for the Working Soul," and monthly feature, "Best Attitudes," in Philippine Daily Inquirer's Sunday People at Work. She is also the editor-in-chief of Blue Collar Magazine. The learning session distills the best of insights from her column "Reflections for the Working Soul."

The resource person for the second day is a seasoned team building trainor, Jocelyn Marie Fallarme Neri. She is an Organizational Development and Training Consultant, Psychotherapist and Pranic Healer and currently works as Senior Training Manager in an IT company. In her learning session, she will show us how to draw upon our spiritual resources to build a different kind of team, a "spiritual community" where the organizational soul can be nurtured.

The resource person for the third day is the foremost expert on SQ or spiritual intelligence in the Philippines, Andre San Agustin, Ph.D. He has been conducting seminars on SQ here and abroad and is a Master Trainer of Inner Excellence Seminars and a former professor in various US universities like the University of Arizona, Manhattan College, Iona College New York, University of San Francisco, University of San Diego, and in the Philippines in the Asian Institute of Management. He will discuss how leaders can enhance their SQ and lead their organizations to success based on spiritual values.

Subsidized registration fees

The registration fees are subsidized by the event sponsors, Equitable PCI Bank, Micro Data Systems and Management Inc., Blue Collar Magazine and McGraw Hill Education. Fees per session are: P350 (patron), P300 (orchestra) and P250 (balcony). Discounts are given for early registrants - 10% (before Feb. 27), students - 50% on balcony seats (up to college level only), teachers and government employees - 25%.

Those registering for the seminar will also be able to do their share for the environment since part of the event proceeds will go to the reforestation projects of Eco-life Foundation, Inc., a finalist in the recently concluded World Bank's 2004 Panibagong Paraan.

To register or for more details, call tel. no. 935-6678.

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PART II

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MCI, one of the world's largest communications companies, offers Internet, data and voice services to over 22 million customers in 65 countries. So how did we get this way? We built our company around our most advanced technology---our staff, the most forward thinking work force in the business today. With an extensive range of IP, hosting, VPN and data communications, it's important to have the right people take us into the new e-conomy. Now we are looking for a few more to join us.

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- Responsible for organizing, coordinating, and overseeing all aspects of training and quality assurance
- With at least 3 years related work experience from a large-scale call center is preferred but not a requirement.
- Quality assurance functions such as defining problems, collecting data, establishing facts, drawing conclusions, and interpreting an extensive variety of technical instructions is a must

2. HR ASSOCIATE / COMPANY NURSE (PDI-HRACN)
- Responsible for providing health care to employees and assisting in the processing of both Company-initiated and government-mandated health benefits
- Must be a Registered Nurse with at least 2 years related work experience

3. FRONT DESK SPECIALISTS (PDI-FDS)
- A graduate of a (4) four year course
- Experience in admin functions
- Possesses excellent communication skills, with pleasing personality, computer literate and willing to undergo shifting schedule

4. QUALITY ASSURANCE ASSOCIATES (PDI-QA)
- With at least six (6) months related work experience in operating a monitoring system's capabilities while analyzing and scoring the details of monitored calls
- Responsible for monitoring, providing report to management and giving feedback to agents

5. MCI - DOMESTIC DIRECTORY ASSOCIATE (PDI-DDA)
- Responsible for the effective handling of inbound/outbound calls for U.S. clients maintaining high productivity and quality performance levels
- Must have excellent communication skills and proficient in computer applications (MS Word, Excel and Internet Navigation)
- Should be willing to undergo shifting schedules
- Work experience in Directory Assistance is an advantage

6. FACILITIES TEAM ASSISTANT (PDI-FTA)
- Graduate of Business Administration or any related fields
- Assists the Facilities Manager in the preparation and operation of the Unit's approved business/work plan of the Finance and Operations Director
- Assists in the implementation of sound policies and procedures in the area of general and/or facilities management/administration
- Recommends policies, systems and procedures for the efficient delivery of the Unit's functions

7. DIET TRAINER (PDI-DT)
- College Graduate
- Preferably has lived and worked in the US for 3 – 5 years
- Excellent English-speaking skills (articulation, grammar, comprehension, spelling)
- At least 2 years work experience in the same capacity, showing track record in developing and conducting similar training programs
- Previous academe experience as English professor is preferred

8. MARKETING ASSOCIATE (PDI-MA)
- Preferably college graduate
- Basic Computer Skills
- Excellent English articulation, grammar and comprehension skills
- Ability to work flexible hours, including weekends and night shifts
- Ability to work in a fast paced, changing environment

9. BAR STAFF (PDI-BS)
- At least 2 years work experience as bar tender or waiter / waitress in a reputable restaurant / hotel
- Very good working knowledge in coffee preparation & snacks servicing
- Excellent customer service skills

10. FINANCIAL SPECIALIST (PDI-FS)
- At least 2 years related experience
- Accounting Graduate
- Experience in computerized AP/AR module, FS preparation and analysis
- Experience in liaison with Government agencies (SEC, BIR and BOI) is an advantage
- Proficient in MS Office applications

11. SPECIAL PROJECT ASSOCIATE (PDI-SPA)
- Management or Accounting graduate
- Experience in office administration, filing and record keeping
- With experience in purchasing and inventory
- Above Average Communication skills
- Proficient in MS Office applications
- Ability to work flexible hours including weekends and evenings

For position # 1, send resumés to recruit@eperformax.com • For positions # 2-6, send resumés to jobs@eperformax.com •
For positions # 7-11, send resumés to yourcareer@eperformax.com
Please include code of position you're applying for in email subject lines

ePERFORMAX CONTACT CENTERS CORP.
2nd Floor BPI Buendia Center, Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City, Philippines
url: www.eperformax.com

We entertain walk-in for PDI-DDA/PDI-MA applicants only

Chateau 1771 Group of Restaurants

PORTICO 1771 Malate

CHATEAU 1771 Ortigas

SENTRO 1771 Makati

Outdoor Cafe Ortigas & Malate

Have passion for excellence?

A continuously changing environment which will keep your energy level on the go is looking for highly motivated individuals for the following positions:

Banquet Sales Executive

Receptionists **Servers** **Bartenders**
Cost Control Staff **Cashiers** **Cooks**

To qualify, successful candidates must have an HRA/HRM degree or any related four-year course and at least 1 year relevant experience, Must have good communication skills, are customer-focused and are team players. Applicants must be willing to undergo training in all aspects of our operations.

Up to this challenge?
Send your resumé, 2x2 photo, Transcript of Records, and Certificates of Employment or clearance from previous employer to:

HR Management Group
24th Floor, IBM Plaza, Eastwood City,
Libis, Quezon City

(POSITIONS AVAILABLE UP TO MARCH 12, 2004)

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spi content sciences

SPI Technologies Inc. is Asia's largest independent BPO (business process outsourcing) services provider. We have a successful 20-year track record of serving Fortune 500 and Global 1000 companies.

Despite the continuing worldwide economic downturn, SPI has grown organizationally, geographically and financially. We have surpassed previous fiscal records and breached formerly inaccessible markets. We have staked our claim in new cities, new countries and new fields of industries.

We've made it our business to turn possibilities into realities, threats into opportunities and barriers to BREAKTHROUGHS.

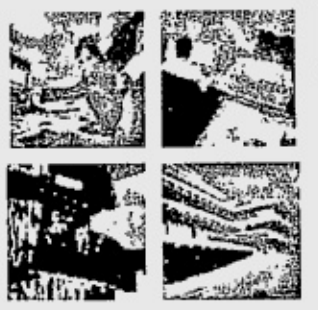
To cater to the requirements of our clients in the global data conversion industry, our Content Sciences business unit is inviting qualified and highly motivated applicants for:

SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTS

(code: PDI-SME)

The successful candidates will be responsible for implementing plans and establishing systems and procedures to achieve project targets and develop staff competency. He/She will also monitor the work activities of production personnel to ensure compliance with project specifications, productivity and accuracy requirements, and deadline schedules.

QUALIFICATIONS:
- Bachelor's degree in any field of Engineering, Natural Sciences, or English
- Must have 1-2 years experience in field of expertise. Preferably, with research work, teaching, or copywriting stint
- Must be multi-skilled in the various facets of team management which includes training, coaching, teambuilding and policy implementation
- Should be internet savvy and proficient in MS Office applications
- Wide-reader and keen on details
- Equipped with well-honed analytical and comprehension skills



Please proceed to the SPI HR Office, 2F Sky Freight Bldg. C, NAIA Avenue corner PASCOR Drive, Parañaque City. Bring your updated resumé w/ recent 2X2 ID picture, Transcript of Records and SSS ID or E1 form.

You may also send your application online through our website's CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES page. Visit www.spitech.com.

Please indicate position code.

spi technologies

Nurses

Join The IELTS CHALLENGE!

Join 142 HCCA nurses in "The IELTS Challenge". Simply join HCCA and take IELTS in the next 3 – 6 weeks without a review. If you pass, you receive an immediate signing bonus of $250. And we even pay for the exam in advance.

In addition, you get your choice of excellent hospitals in Texas, North Carolina, South Carolina, Arizona and New York.

Real Hospitals! Real Jobs! Real Communities! Permanent Hospital Assignments — $20 – $26 per hour; additional $6,000 bi-annual signing and retention bonus; $3000 third year bonus with free round trip ticket home; free use of HCCA's computer laboratory and lending library in Manila; sign-on incentives for NCLEX and CG; fast processing; and 24/365 presence in Manila and America to assist you. HCCA is your direct employer. No long distance or intermediary relationships required. We are where you are!

IMMEDIATE INTERVIEWS & NO PRE-SCREENING EXAMS

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125 ADDITIONAL NURSES REQUIRED

To qualify for employment, you must not be under contract with a Philippine recruitment agency. You must be currently employed in a 150 + bed acute care hospital and working in Medical, Surgical, ICU, CCU, Orthopedic and Ob/Gyn units. You must be fluent in English and successfully satisfy HCCA's hiring standards. Required documents include: resume, college diploma, transcript of records, board ratings, board certificate, PRC ID, updated employment certificate, birth certificate, passport and marriage certificate, if any and any results of CGFNS/NCLEX/TOEFL/TSE/IELTS exams, plus 4 pcs. 2x2 colored photos.

Absolutely, positively, no fees or hidden costs anywhere!

HCCA INTERNATIONAL

Philippine Overseas Employment Administration

Apply at the **POEA Government Placement Branch**, windows P & O, ground floor, left wing, Blas F. Ople Building (formerly POEA) EDSA cor. Ortigas Avenue, Mandaluyong, Tel. 722-1174 or 722-1175 **(Immediate processing and no lines. See Project Officer Ms. Blenda)** or your local POEA office Applications may also be picked up in Makati at the Enterprise Center, 33rd/F Tower 1, 6766 Ayala Avenue corner of Paseo De Roxas. 63(2) 757-1000.

ATTENTION: RESIDENTS OF OLONGAPO, BATAAN & PAMPANGA

PLEASE APPLY PERSONALLY ON MARCH 2-3 2004 from 10am-5pm AT JOLLIBEE SM PAMPANGA ANNEX
Bring your updated resume, transcript of records & recent picture. Please be in business attire.

Jollibee

*In 2002, we were ranked among **ASIA'S BEST EMPLOYERS**, the only Philippine company in the list, and the **#1 EMPLOYER IN THE PHILIPPINES**, as cited by the Far Eastern Economic Review, The Asian Wall Street Journal, and Hewitt Associates. Ranked **3rd among ASIA'S MOST ADMIRED COMPANIES** in 2000, we were also cited as **No. 1 in "OVERALL LEADERSHIP"** among the top 10 Philippine companies doing business in Asia.*

*Recognized by the World Economic Forum as the **"GLOBAL GROWTH COMPANY"**, we invite you to join the ranks of highly successful individuals of the No. 1 food chain. We need high caliber individuals to play very critical role in this growth as:*

STORE MANAGERS

Responsible for the over-all management of the store to achieve targeted goals and maintain efficiency and effectiveness of store operations. Male or female; not over 35 years old; Bachelor's degree holder, with at least 3 years managerial and/or 5 years supervisory experience in food service, manufacturing, retail business, hospitals, or other service-oriented establishments and willing to undergo hands-on-training.

MANAGEMENT TRAINEES

College graduates with at least 1-3 years supervisory experience in food service or service-oriented establishments. We also welcome fresh graduates with above-average scholastic records.

STORE MARKETING OFFICERS

The SMART Officer is responsible for planning and implementation of store marketing projects and activities that will: a) increase store sales and b) make service to our customers more personalized. For the position, we need a college graduate, preferably in Mass Communication, Marketing, Management, or any related discipline. He/She should be creative and outgoing, and should possess good human relations and oral and written communication skills.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS (AA – Store Based)

The Administrative Assistant is responsible for the proper handling of the store's funds which include but not limited to the following: Master and Drawer Change Fund, Petty Cash Fund, Cash Sales, Check Disbursement, Computation of manhours and others. For the position, we need graduates of business courses preferably Accounting or Management; not over 25 years old; with at least 6 months work experience in the same field.

Applicants must be willing to work on shifting schedules. Successful candidates will undergo a comprehensive training program designed to develop technical and managerial competencies. Hired applicants can look forward to an above industry compensation package, a rewarding career and growth opportunities.

ALSO HIRING FOR:
Cagayan, Ilocos, Nueva Ecija, Tarlac, Baguio, Pangasinan, La Union, Dagupan, Novaliches

Qualified candidates may send their updated resume, photocopy of Official Transcript of Records and recent ID photo to:

JOLLIBEE FOODS CORPORATION
Human Resources Division – North Luzon
9th flr. - Jollibee Plaza
#10 Emerald Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Or e-mail us at HRD_application@jollibee.com.ph

FIL-PACIFIC APPAREL CORPORATION

manufacturer of established brand names for local and export market is currently accepting applicants for the following positions:

HR MANAGER
Graduate of Industrial Engineering, Behavioral Science or Human Resource Management; 3 to 5 years experience in Human Resources; not less than 30 years old; adept in all phases of the HR functions with emphasis on HR Management, HR Development & Labor & Employee Relations; demonstrated achievements in the field of Compensation, Training & Development, Recruitment, Employee Relations, CBA Negotiations, etc; preferably has experience working in a garments manufacturing set-up

ACCOUNTANT (2)
Must be CPA; with at least 2 years experience; knowledgeable in preparation of financial statements; general accounting system; can handle and monitor accounts receivable; must be updated with the latest BIR rulings and regulations

INDUSTRIAL ENGINEER (3)
Male or female; 24 to 30 years of age; preferably with experience in production planning, time and motion study and analysis; would be responsible for generating and issuing production plans or daily work schedules; experience in garments manufacturing company is an advantage

MERCHANDISER (2)
Graduate of Clothing Technology or Industrial Engineer; with at least 2 years experience in the same capacity; can handle accounts for apparel brands which includes order sourcing, costing and negotiation; decisive with initiative; excellent in written and verbal communication skills

DESIGNER/MERCHANDISER
Fine Arts graduate; familiar with corel draw; fashion oriented; can adapt in a manufacturing set-up; male or female; 1-3 years of merchandising experience gained from a garments company is an advantage; with knowledge in fabric sourcing to accessories development to production

PRODUCT COORDINATOR
Graduate of Clothing Technology or Industrial Engineer; has at least 1 year work experience in the same capacity in a garments manufacturing company; with technical knowledge in sewing

GRAPHIC ARTIST
Male or female; 24 to 28 years old; must be a graduate of Fine Arts major in Advertising; fresh graduates are welcomed to apply

TRAINING ASSISTANT
Male or female; 24 to 28 years old; must be a graduate of Psychology or any related course; with at least 1 year work experience in conducting training needs analysis and preparing training modules related to store operations and sales management

MARKETING ASSISTANT
Graduate of any business course; female;single; between 21 to 25 years old; with extensive experience in product promotion, advertising and other related marketing skills; must be updated with current fashion trends

SALES & ADMIN. ASSISTANT
Graduate of any business course; female; single; between 21 to 25 years old; with experience in promo supervision and training; excellent interpersonal and communication skills

OFFICE STAFF
Female; graduate of any 4 year course; computer literate; assertive with good communication skills

OTHER VACANCIES
Sample Maker/Sewer; Quality Control; Quality Auditor

These are urgent requirements. Interested applicants are requested to apply in person or send their resume to:
FIL-PACIFIC APPAREL CORPORATION - Human Resources Department
Villonco Road., Sucat, Parañaque E-mail address: **hrdiv@fil-pacific.com**
Applicants may also call telephone numbers 809-60-60 or 546-09-80
Other interested parties may call company trunklines : 842-15-46/47; 842-15-91/92; 807-05-00; 842-69-59

UNDP

FINANCE ASSOCIATE

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is in need of a Finance Associate who will control and monitor operational allotment, UNDP administered funds, bank accounts, and responsible for the overall financial and accounting management functions of UNDP. Responsibility also includes the management of budgetary strategy for UNDP operational budget, Resident Coordinator, Field Security Office, Development Support Services, UNAIDS and other related operational funds administered by UNDP, consolidation/reporting/planning of extra-budgetary resources and supervise full implementation of cost recovery strategy in pursuit of the organization's thrusts and objectives.

Major Duties and Responsibilities:

I. FINANCIAL AND CASH MANAGEMENT
a. Supervise receipts and payments management e.g. local and foreign payables, receivables and payroll related transactions.
c. Supervise/oversee financial management operations including related systems modifications for simplification and seamless integration with UNDP system.
d. Supervise cash management functions e.g. banking related services and treasury transactions.
e. Supervise office budget execution.
f. Forecast extra-budgetary income and manage extra-budgetary resources ensuring sufficient fund balance to cover anticipated expenditures.
g. Control the utilization of the Management Project Budget by ensuring proper allocation to the different units/ portfolios.
h. Act as committing/certifying officer for all UNDP administered funds.

II. ACCOUNTS AND RECORDS MANAGEMENT
a. Supervise accounts, records and file management functions e.g. review and identification of the integrity of monthly accounts, bank reconciliation reports, and ensures that issues are addressed and actions completed on time.
b. Ensure cost effectiveness and quality of accounting services through continuous process of improvement and automation.

III. STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP SUPPORT
a. Ensure the Country Office's full compliance with Government Local Office Cost (GLOC) (including submission of annual Country Office (CO) requirement to National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) and periodic follow-up with Department of Foreign Affairs for Government contributions).
b. Supervise the implementation of cost recovery strategy and ensures sustainability of the method.
c. Provide supervision in calculating costs for services to Agencies and projects, analyze costs and propose methodologies and efficiency indicators to support the Operation Support Group in the use of available resources.
d. Ensure recognition and recording of cost recovery from Agencies and direct support costs from National Executed related projects on a timely manner.

IV. COMPLIANCE AND REPORTING MANAGEMENT
a. Ensure that all receipt and disbursements, budget allocation and utilization and cost recovery implementation are in accordance with established UNDP and Agencies' financial rules and regulations.
b. Ensure accurate and timely recording and reporting of GLOC collections, cost sharing and cost recovery billings to Agencies.
c. Ensure proper collaboration with stakeholders in terms of resource monitoring and adherence to reporting requirements.

V. SUPERVISION AND UNIT MANAGEMENT
a. Plan day-to-day work of the finance unit – assigns duties, guides and supervises unit staff.
b. Prepare and implement annual work plan for the Unit and, regularly monitor and evaluate Unit performance.
c. Maintain a supportive relationship with the different Financial Institutions, UN Agencies, UNDP Headquarter units to include networking with other COs.
d. Deliver effective leadership towards attainment of UNDP goals, people's skills development and enrichment.
e. Keep abreast of all updated procedures, rules and regulations relevant to assigned functions.

VI. OTHER DUTIES
a. Actively participate in UNDP committees, Staff Association activities, inter-agency and other ad-hoc assignments.
b. Pro-actively pursue learning and actively participate in CO wide learning activities.
c. Perform other duties as maybe assigned from time to time.

JOB REQUIREMENTS
- A Certified Public Accountant
- Master's degree in Accountancy or, Business Administration or related fields
- 10 years experience in the fields of Accounting, Finance, Treasury
- Experience in the relevant field with international development organizations would be an advantage
- Exposure to audit will be an advantage
- Exposure in integrated Financial Management System is required
- Good analytical ability
- Computer literate
- Good command of English, both oral and written

The selected candidate will receive a salary depending on his/her background and work experience.

Applicants are requested to complete the UN Personal History Form (P.11), available in our website www.undp.org.ph/jobs/ and send to:

Human Resources Management Unit
United Nations Development Programme
7th Floor NEDA sa Makati Bldg.
106 Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village
Makati City, Philippines

Indicating the Vacancy No. and Post Title on or before 05 MARCH 2004. Kindly note that only completed P11 forms will be reviewed.

UNDP is an equal opportunity employer and invites Filipino nationals to apply for the post.
Please note that we will contact only the short-listed candidates.

MONA LISA may have one of the world's famous smiles, but frankly, you don't find that impish smile as anything special. Fact is, you find your Lola's toothless grin more charming.

If you have this same critical attitude toward art, then send an artistically written letter to SIBS Publishing House. Boast about your intelligence. Mention your personality traits that make you a good researcher. Cite your editing experience and other qualities which you think would make you a worthy **ART EDITOR**. You don't need to paint a masterpiece, but you've got to have an eye for one.

As **ART EDITOR** you will be tasked to tell Leonardo da Vinci to revise his work and make Mona Lisa's smile more apt to the subject matter. If da Vinci snubs your instruction, you have to be prepared to nag, cajole, or threaten him, or look for other sources and hope that your resourcefulness and creativity will land you that elusive work of art.

We would like the **ART EDITOR** to be computer savvy as well, so please send all correspondences via e-mail to

sibsbook@info.com.ph

If it can't be helped, send applications via snail mail to

SIBS PUBLISHING HOUSE, INC.
SIBS Publishing House
8/F, Globe Telecom Plaza II
Pioneer Highlands, Pioneer cor. Madison Sts.
1552 Mandaluyong City

IF YOU ARE HIGHLY MOTIVATED, ORGANIZED & LOOKING FOR A HIGH PAYING STABLE JOB WITH POTENTIAL FOR PROMOTION. WE WANT YOU TO BE A PART OF OUR GROWING FAST FOOD COMPANY.

JOB OPENINGS:

STORE & ROVING SUPERVISOR

- Female, college graduate
- With experience
- Knowledge in operating cash register & PGS
- Highly organized in work
- Willing to learn
- Willing to be assigned in various malls & universities
- Willing to work long hours
- Flexible hours

Please apply in person at 158 P. Sevilla St., between 6th & 7th Aves., Grace Park, Caloocan City.

Bring RESUMÉ with 2x2 colored photo.

We are inviting highly-dynamic, innovative and driven professionals to join our team as:

BRANCH HEADS (Metro Manila, Bulacan, Laguna, Cebu, Zamboanga)

- Significant and extensive experience in branch operations and marketing
- Able to achieve business targets consistently
- Client centered and values customer service
- Dynamic and results oriented
- Proven leadership capabilities

RETAIL SALES DEPARTMENT HEAD

- Between 28-35 years old
- With extensive consumer sales/marketing background (i.e. credit cards, personal loans, insurance, etc.)
- With excellent people and sales management skills
- Preferably with experience in handling sales agents
- With excellent communication and presentation skills
- Proficient in MS Office

PRODUCT MANAGER

- Degree in Business Administration, Marketing or Mass Communication
- With at least 2 years experience in Product Marketing or Sales as junior officer
- Can conceptualize and implement marketing programs
- Highly creative and results oriented
- With excellent communication and presentation skills
- Excellent team player and can work with minimal supervision
- Proficient in MS Office

BRANCH SERVICE AND CONTROL OFFICERS (Metro Manila, Bulacan, Laguna, Cebu, Zamboanga)

- Extensive experience in cash operations
- Seasoned in supervising Tellers and New Accounts Staff
- Client centered and values customer service
- Proficient in MS Office

LOANS OFFICER

- Graduate of any four-year business course
- With at least 3-5 years related work experience gained from a bank (must be in supervisory level)
- Systematic and highly organized with high sense of urgency
- Client centered and values customer service
- Proficient in MS Office

MARKETING OFFICERS (Binondo)

- Graduate of any four-year business course
- With significant and extensive experience in developing marketing plans
- Must be Chinese-speaking
- With excellent communication skills
- Highly assertive and can work with minimal supervision
- Proficient in MS Office

COLLECTION OFFICER

- Between 26-35 years old
- At least 3 years experience in Collections gained preferably from a credit card company (the last 2 years of which were in a supervisory level)
- Good leadership skills; analytical and is able to recognize or anticipate problems and recommend timely, cost-efficient solutions
- People-oriented; able to handle all types of customers
- Equipped with excellent, persuasive negotiation skills
- Performs well under pressure and is prepared to extend working hours when necessary

HR OFFICER

- Below 35 years old
- At least 3-4 years experience in the different areas of Human Resources
- With policy design and writing skills/knowledge
- With excellent communication and presentation skills
- Proficient in MS Office

LEGAL OFFICER

- Between 29-33 years old
- Graduate of Bachelor of Law
- Member of the Philippine Bar
- With at least 2 years experience in litigation
- Preferably with exposure in banking
- With excellent communication skills
- Proficient in MS Office

ACCOUNT OFFICER (Personal Loans)

- Between 25-30 years old
- With experience in developing marketing plans and strategies preferably in mass / government markets
- With account management experience
- Preferably with experience in handling sales agents
- Proficient in MS Office
- With excellent communication and presentation skills

HEAD OFFICE / BRANCH STAFF

- CUSTOMER SERVICE ASSOCIATES (Metro Manila, Bulacan, Laguna, Cebu, Zamboanga)
- MARKETING ASSISTANTS
- CREDIT INVESTIGATORS (Head Office and Naga)
- COLLECTION ASSISTANTS
- LOANS / SECURITIES PROCESSORS
- SECURITIES LIBRARIAN

Candidates must be graduates of any business-related course from reputable schools; Not over 26 years old; With excellent communication skills and pleasing personality; Assertive with strong customer service orientation; Proficient in MS Office.

Fresh graduates are welcome to apply.

INTERESTED APPLICANTS MAY SEND THEIR RESUMÉ WITH 2" X 2" COLORED ID PICTURE TO:

THE HUMAN RESOURCES GROUP Recruitment Department 7/F, PSBank Center **777 Paseo de Roxas corner Sedeño St., Makati City**	Email: Recruitment@psbank.com.ph (use APPLICATION <Position Title> as subject line)

Deadline for submission is Friday, 27 February 2004 *(Previous applicants need not apply)*

PSBank
PHILIPPINE SAVINGS BANK
A METROBANK SUBSIDIARY

Catherine A. Sas
BARRISTER & SOLICITOR
IMMIGRATION LAW CENTRE

Immigrating to Canada

RENY DE LOS REYES
Immigration Consultant

CATHERINE SAS
Barrister and Solicitor

Ms. Catherine Sas will be coming to Manila for consultations regarding immigration to Canada on Friday, March 5 and Saturday, March 6, 2004. To book your consultation appointment, please call Ms. Reny de los Reyes at (02)-821-5030 or (02)-776-5227. Ms. Sas will be meeting with clients in Manila at the Business Centre of the Intercontinental Hotel in Makati.

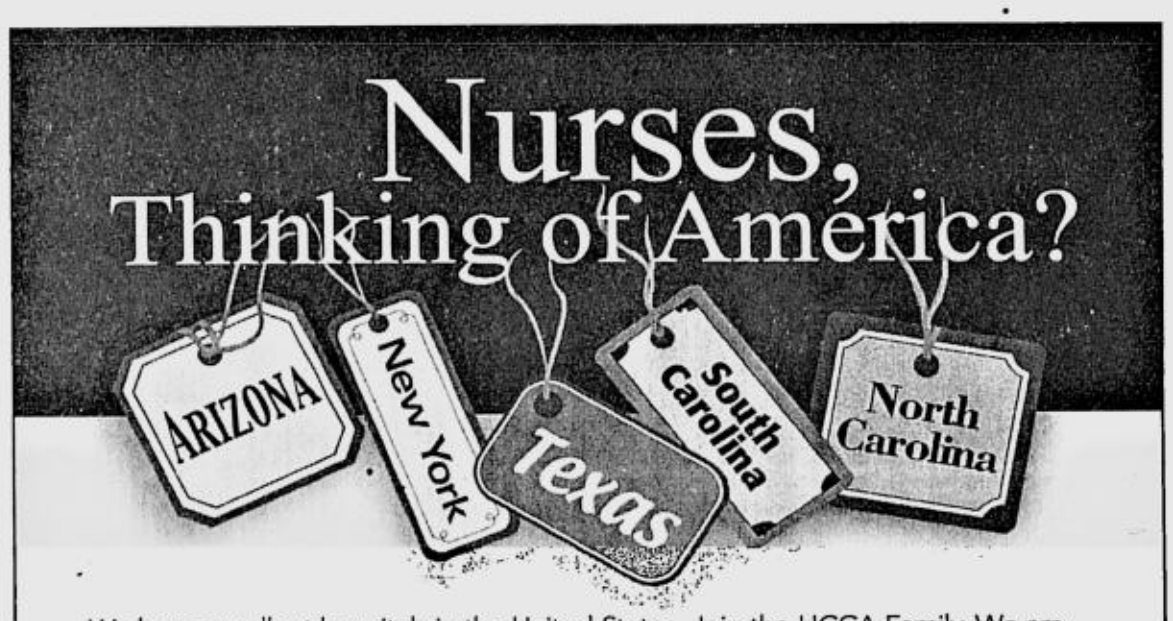
CONSULTATION FEE: Php 1,000.00

LOS ANGELES Tel. 310-.966.180
VANCOUVER Toll Free: 1.888.689.5445
PARKSVILLE Tel: 250.954.1988

#501-134 Abbott Street, Vancouver, B.C. Canada V6B 2K4
Tel: (604) 689-5444 Fax: (604) 689-5666
E-mail: casas@axionet.com Web:www.canadian-visa-lawyer.com

MS. SAS IS A REGISTERED FOREIGN LEGAL CONSULTANT WITH THE STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA

Nurses, Thinking of America?



We have excellent hospitals in the United States. Join the HCCA Family. We are selective but if you qualify and are hired, you receive:

- $20 - $26 per hour minimum starting salary range
- $6,000 USD bonus over 24 month contract
- $3,000 USD bonus for third year
- Time and a half for overtime and holidays
- Contributory health insurance (Only $40 per month for the nurse)
- Daily HCCA presence to serve your needs and answer your questions
- 22 days paid leave per year
- Free round trip flight back to Manila after 3rd year with HCCA
- Free NCLEX reviews
- Free NCLEX and IELTS exams
- Free travel accommodation and per diem for NCLEX
- Free web based educational assessments for NCLEX preparation
- Free NCLEX review books for take home study
- Free use of computer lab with internet for studying
- Free use of modern library and learning center in Manila
- Free VCD, DVD, VHS tapes and book loans for home study
- Free airfare to the United States
- Interest free loan for Packet 3 dependents
- No "legal" fees; "professional fees" or placement charges.

NEW – Immediate employment signing bonuses for new hires, including: Passing IELTS in next six weeks ($250); Already having: IELTS or TOEFL/TSE ($500); CG and passing IELTS in next four months ($1000); CG and IELTS ($1500); NCLEX and passing IELTS in four months ($2500); NCLEX and IELTS ($3000). Contact us or the POEA for the specific details.

125 NURSES CURRENTLY REQUIRED

To qualify for employment, you must not be under contract with a Philippine recruitment agency. You must be currently employed in a 150 + bed acute care hospital and working in Medical, Surgical, ICU, CCU, Orthopedic and Ob/Gyn units. You must be fluent in English and successfully satisfy HCCA's hiring standards. Required documents include: resume, college diploma, transcript of records, board ratings, board certificate, PRC ID, updated employment certificate, birth certificate, passport and marriage certificate, if any and any results of CGFNS/NCLEX/TOEFL/TSE/IELTS exams, plus 4 pcs. 2x2 colored photos.

Absolutely, positively, no fees or hidden costs anywhere!

HCCA INTERNATIONAL

Philippine Overseas Employment Administration

Apply at the **POEA Government Placement Branch**, windows P & O, ground floor, left wing, Blas F. Ople Building (formerly POEA) EDSA cor. Ortigas Avenue, Mandaluyong, Tel. 722-1174 or 722-1175 **(Immediate processing and no lines. See Project Officer Ms. Blenda)** or your local POEA office Applications may also be picked up in Makati at the Enterprise Center, 33rd/F Tower 1, 6766 Ayala Avenue corner of Paseo De Roxas. 63(2) 757-1000.

GRAND JOB FAIR OF
MACASIRAY-MARIÑAS & ASSOCIATES

URGENTLY NEEDS....

JUNIOR MANAGER
MANAGEMENT TRAINEE
OFFICE STAFF

45-GRADUATES OF: PT, OT, RT, BSN & any MED. courses
30-GRADUATES OF: IE, ECE, EE, ME, CE & Archi.
20-GRADUATES OF: BSC, Tourism, Educ., Philo & Psyc
12-GRADUATES OF: CoE, ComSci & other IT related courses

** Age 20 to 35 years old, with or w/o experience, licensed or non-licensed and willing to be assigned in different positions available in the company.
** Hiring starts on February 23-27, 2004 (8 AM to 5 PM)

FRESH GRADUATES ARE ALSO ACCEPTED.

Interested applicants may apply personally with comprehensive resumé, original credentials and 2x2 picture at:

#235 C Mercan Bldg., EDSA Ext'n. Pasay City
(walking distance from MRT Taft & LRT Edsa Station, near Saver's Square Mall beside Allied Bank and Super Bike Motors)

Look for Ms. Estrada

* Clip this ad to your resume *

RRP ayumo + Partners ARCHITECTS

HAS IMMEDIATE REQUIREMENTS FOR

*** PROJECT ARCHITECT**
*** ARCHITECTURAL DESIGNER**
*** INTERIOR DESIGNER**

MUST BE LICENSED, WITH EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE IN INSTITUTIONAL AND COMMERCIAL PROJECTS

Those with less than 5 years exp. need not apply.

APPLY IN PERSON AT:
563 BONI SERRANO AVE.
CUBAO, QUEZON CITY

With your biodata, 2x2 picture, transcript of records, diploma and samples of work.

AIG Business Processing Services, Inc.

we're looking for

Call Center Representatives

American International Group, Inc. (AIG) is a Fortune 500 company and the world's leading international insurance and financial services organization, with operations in approximately 130 countries. AIG member companies serve commercial, institutional and individual customers through the most extensive worldwide property-casualty and life insurance networks of any insurer. AIG's global businesses also include financial services, retirement savings and asset management. The common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange, as well as the stock exchanges in London, Paris, Switzerland, and Tokyo.
The local AIG companies in the Philippines are the Philam Group of Companies. AIG Business Processing Services, Inc. (AIG-BPSI), one of the newest member of the Philam Group, is a business process outsourcing (BPO) company serving the needs of AIG American General Life Insurance Companies. AIG-BPSI invites you to be part of its pioneering and fast-growing operations. Successful candidates will undergo intensive training and can look forward to a financially rewarding and enriching career.

You will be reporting to the Call Center Team Leader and will be responsible for handling customer inquiries, providing general information on the company's products and services and processing requests of customers to update policy information.

Job Requirements
- Graduate of any four-year course.
- Minimum of 6 months experience in customer service with US customers or in a customer-oriented job.
- Willing to work in the graveyard shift.

Knowledge/Skills:
- Above average verbal and written English communication skills
- Excellent listening skills
- Strong interpersonal and customer service skills
- Computer literate

Success is within your reach.

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We are inviting aggressive and mature individuals to fill up vacant position as continue our commitment in giving the best quality of service to our client

ACCOUNTING CLERK

* BS Accounting Graduate
* Male or Female 22 to 28 years old
* Computer Literate
* Have at least 1 year work experience
* Trustworthy, mature responsible outlook and open to new ideas

INTERESTED APPLICANTS may send or submit personally their updated resume with recent ID picture, NBI clearance, photocopy of transcript of records and certificate of previous employment to:

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metal systems inc.
533 Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City
Tel. No. 931-2602 / 951-2290 Fax No. 931-1459
e-mail add.: sales@architecks.com.ph

GHD MANAGEMENT ENGINEERING ENVIRONMENT

CAD OPERATORS

CAD Operators for Interior Design / Architecture required for international firm in Doha, Qatar. Applicants must meet the following minimum criteria:

- Minimum 8 years experience in CAD Design
- Proficient in AutoCAD 2002/2004
- Fluent spoken/written English essential
- Experience in Joinery Detailing preferred
- Knowledge of Adobe Photoshop an advantage
- Experience in Hospitality and Retail Projects an advantage

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We are a reputable Telecommunications and SI firm aiming to be one of the leading providers of communication solutions for the enterprise. To meet our expanding business operations, we would like to invite highly skilled and motivated personnel to be part of our team to fill-up the following position:

SOFTWARE/APPLICATION ENGINEERS

Qualifications:
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- Male/Female, not more than 35 years of age
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633-4634 to 35 loc. 16 / 437-5207

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Please apply in person and bring the following:
- Sample of works in autoCAD and perspective drawings
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Call Mila @ 8953698 or 8964293 for appointments

★2004 JOB EXPANSION★

OFFICE STAFF & MANAGEMENT TRAINEES
Male/Female, Single/Married. College graduate of any course.
Apply in person with resumé & any original credentials.
Hiring will be on Monday to Saturday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, February 23 to 28, 2004

APPLY AT:
Suite 806, West Tower, Tektite Phil. Stock Exchange Center, Exchange Road, Ortigas, Pasig City
(Back of Megamall near San Miguel Bldg.)
Note: 1st 10 qualified will start immediately.
Look for Mr. Isidro for interview
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You will be reporting to the Call Center Team Leader and will be responsible for handling customer inquiries, providing general information on the company's products and services and processing requests of customers to update policy information.

Job Requirements
- Graduate of any four-year course.
- Minimum of 6 months experience in customer service with US customers or in a customer-oriented job.
- Willing to work in the graveyard shift.

Knowledge/Skills:
- Above average verbal and written English communication skills
- Excellent listening skills
- Strong interpersonal and customer service skills
- Computer literate

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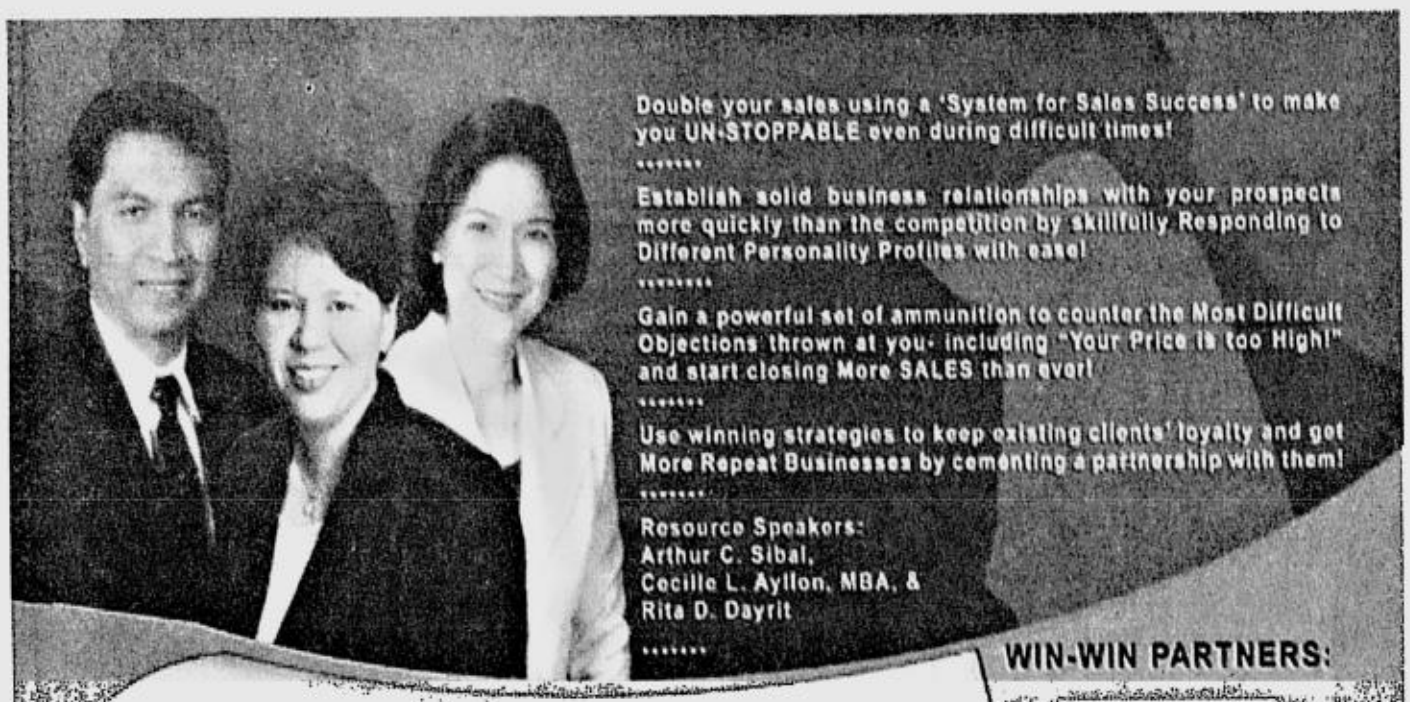

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- Able to converse in the English language, both written and oral
- Proficient with Microsoft Office applications, the Internet and email
- Willing to work on shifts and graveyard schedule

TRAINING SUPERVISOR (FOR MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS)
- University degree preferably MA in Industrial, Organizational Psychology, Organizational Development or Management
- At least five (5) years related experience in training and two (2) years experience in managing a training team
- Minimum of three (3) years pervious people management experience
- Experience in working with people on different levels
- Must have good verbal and written communication skills
- Proficient in the use of MS Office Applications

TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT OFFICER
- University degree preferably BS Psychology, Behavioral Science or Management, MA, MBA.
- One year related experience in the Call Center industry
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- Has excellent customer service skills
- Fluent in English and has first-rate business writing skills
- Proficient with Microsoft Office applications and the Internet
- Willing to work on night schedule

ESL TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT OFFICER
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TECHNICAL SUPPORT ENGINEERS
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- Experience in call recording technologies
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SEMINAR TOPICS/PROGRAMME

April 13, 2004, Tuesday, 9:30am- 4:30pm (Whole day)
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The 2nd Overseas Filipinos Worldwide (OFW) Trade Show and Seminar

Theme: 'Overseas Filipinos Economic Empowerment Through Entrepreneurship'
April 16-18, 2004
Hall 3, SM Megatrade, Mandaluyong City, Philippines

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

- 3-day trade exhibit showcasing business opportunities and investments for OFWs and their families
- 3-day entrepreneurship seminar for OFWs and their families
- Business matching activities and meetings
- Entrepreneurship presentations of participating companies
- Social and fellowship night of OFWs
- City tours for OFWs and their families

EXHIBIT PROFILE

- Remittance and Financial Services
- Travel Agencies, Transportation, Tour Packages
- Micro Financing and Leasing
- Insurance Companies
- Franchising Business
- Banks and Credit Card Companies
- Manpower Services (Land/Sea-based)
- Real Estate and Properties
- Telecommunication Companies
- Freight Forwarders and Shipping Companies
- Health Care and Medical Services/Companies
- Computer Training Institutes/Centers
- Computer Hardware and Software
- Print and Online Media
- Fresh and Processed Food Products
- Natural/Herbal/Organic Products

SEMINAR TOPICS

- Kalayaan sa Kakapusan
- Pagnenegosyo 101/Entrepreneurship Basic
- Building Successful Business Plans
- Franchising for First-Time Entrepreneurs
- Franchise Business Presentations
- Entrepreneurship Case Studies
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ISO-certified Multi-national Company engage in manufacturing various housing fixtures, committed to quality service and customer satisfaction. Awarded as Top Sectoral Export Performance Citation for Furniture Category are in need of the following personnel.

Assistant Supervisor

- Male/Female, at least 21-30 years old
- Graduate of Architecture or any Engineering course
- With at least 6 months of supervisory work experience
- Knowledge in machine operation for wooden products
- Proficient in windows based programs
- Good inter-personal relationship
- Aggressive, analytical and assertive

Programmer

- Male/Female between 21-30 years old
- Graduate of any computer course
- Knowledge in ACCESS, ORACLE & VISUAL BASIC
- Good communication skills both oral and written

Assistant Supervisor for Employee Relations

- Responsible for facilitating upward and downward communicaton within the organization in order to create/maintain an open climate to productivity and employee satisfaction
- Female between 21-30 years old
- Graduate of Psychology/Industrial Relations preferably with masteral degree
- With 1-2 years work experience in the same field
- Computer literate, analytical, people-oriented, good oral and written communication skills

Recruitment Staff

- Male/Female between 21-27 years old
- Graduate of AB/BS Psychology or any related behavioral science course
- Can administer & interpret standardize & projective test
- Good communication skills both oral and written
- Can work under pressure w/o affecting the quality of work
- Can work on extended hours w/ minimal supervisions
- Can make psychological report
- Must be computer proficient

Video Editor

- Male / Female between 21-27 years old
- Graduate of AB Mass Communication
- Proficient in windows based programs
- With experience in video editing/production
- Knowledge in Adobe Premiere V.6 +Up
- Can work on extended hours w/ minimal supervisions

Company Nurse

- Female between 21-27 years old
- Graduate of BS Nursing
- Experienced in Industrial setting is an advantage
- People oriented and can work on extended hours

Maintenance Staff (urgent hiring)

- Male between 20-35 yrs. old
- Vocational or College Graduate
- With 1 year experience as air-con ref technician or mechanic
- Can read electrical diagram symbol
- Must be familiar in manufacturing machine trouble
- Knowledge in compressor repair
- Knowledge in AVR control

Truck Head Driver (urgent hiring)

- Male at least 30 up to 40 yrs of age
- High school or Vocational Course (related in auto mechanic)
- Experience in Driving Truck Head
- Skills in Heavy Equipment Mechanic
- With professional Driver's License(R Code- 6& 3,2,1,)

Forklift Operator (urgent hiring)

- At least High school Vocational College Level
- Male be 20-35 years old
- With 6 months experience in forklift operation
- With Professional Driver's License
- Good moral character

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For inquiries, call telephone no. (046) 437-2486 or 437-0849.
Look for Christian Bonifacio or you can e-mail your resumé at:
hrd_scad@pacific.net.ph

UNDP

A project funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and implemented by the Department of Energy (DOE) is in search of a qualified candidate for the post of Chief Technical Advisor (CTA), and to be based at the DOE Office in Makati City. The initial duration of the services of the CTA will be for five (5) months spread over one year, but maybe extended depending on performance.

Technical Accountabilities:

1. **Evaluate, recommend, and enhance Project activities:** Coordinate and advise on the development of Project staff job descriptions and annual work and financial plans especially for the Project Management Office (PMO) and Market Service Center (MSC); Review the TORs of experts/consultants to be hired by the Project; Assess Project performance and achievement especially the sustainability of relevant activities (i.e. MSC operations, MSC Business Plan, Financing and Delivery Mechanisms, RE Database, RE Training Program, NRE Planning Model, RE Resource Inventory, IEC Activities, and RE Policies; Review and enhance the Co-Financing Institution (CFI) reporting, monitoring & evaluation system; Review and assess the technical content, quality, and scheduling of outputs/deliverables of Project experts and consultants; Recommend how gender sensitivity and the rights-based approach can be integrated in Project activities; Recommend rationalization of activities between World Bank Rural Power Project (WB RPP) and the CBRED Project.
2. **Establish a monitoring and evaluation system or program for all aspects of the Project:** Review and provide comments on the Project Operational Manual; Provide written recommendations to improve or enhance monitoring and reporting of the Project Outputs, Verifiable Indicators, Budget Allocations, and Work plan; Develop a standard reporting format based on GEF requirements in the delivery of consultants' outputs; Design an integrated M&E System, incorporating risk-management, based on the Project Activities and Indicators (Log-frame Analysis, Output Indicators, Results-framework, impact indicators, etc).
3. **Coordinate with and assist the PMO in developing and preparing progress and annual reports.**
4. **Provide the following specific inputs to the different Project Component activities:**
   a. **Component 1:** Recommend strategies for the development and passage of the RE Bill; Participate and prepare reports in consultation workshops/meetings on the legislative/ administrative mechanisms for RE institutionalization; Provide advice and technical inputs to the operations of the Project Steering Committee (PSC) and the RE Inter-Agency Committee (REIAC) including their subcommittees; Review, recommend, and render technical advice and inputs to the RE Policy M&E system that will be developed under the Project.
   b. **Component 2:** Provide technical advice on the development of the MSC Business Plan.
   c. **Component 3:** Review the integrated RE information and exchange system/design that will be developed by the Database and Data Exchange subcontractor; Review and provide inputs to the RE Website; Provide advice and inputs to the design, development and consolidation of the National RE Database, RE Advocacy and Promotion Program, RE Engineering Service Industry Development Program and the Green Energy Rating Program; Provide advice and technical inputs to the establishment and activities of the Database Keepers Committee.
   d. **Component 4:** Provide technical inputs to the activities that will be conducted by the NRE Financing and Delivery Mechanism Subcontractor; Review the M&E system for projects funded by the PPF, LGF, and MFF to assess the effectiveness of the innovative delivery mechanisms supported by the funds; Provide inputs to the design of a sustainable follow-up financing program.
   e. **Component 5:** Review and assess the Training Program that will be developed by the Training Expert; Develop training design and conduct training on Project Monitoring & Evaluation for the PMO, DOE, and MSC.
   f. **Component 6:** Provide advice and inputs to the development of RE standards and to the activities of the Local Manufacturers TA Subcontractor.

Qualifications:

1. A degree in Business Administration, Economics and Engineering, with a Masters Degree in Engineering, Public Policy, or Business Administration
2. At least 10 years of proven track record in project management, preferably in the area of renewable energy
3. Knowledge and familiarity with GEF-funded projects, including implementation programs, and if possible, lessons learned
4. Senior management reporting skills
5. Excellent English communication skills, both written and oral. Skilled presenter of ideas in one-on-one situations and in symposia
6. Proven track record / experience in successful contract management
7. Highly self-motivated, with good leadership skills
8. Capable of planning, initiating and managing multi-disciplinary activities within the context of a multi-donor international project
9. With good appreciation of and strong links with the Philippines renewable energy sector

All application letters and comprehensive resumes should reach our office on or before 5 March 2004. Address applications to the Development Support Services Center, United Nations Development Programme, 7th Floor, NEDA sa Makati Building, 106 Amorsolo Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City (via courier) or P.O. Box 7285 Domestic Airport Post Office Lock Box 1300 Domestic Road, Pasay City (via airmail), tel. nos. 892-0611 to 25 loc. 275 / 237.

This advertisement shall remain posted in www.undp.org.ph until March 5, 2004.

/16 February 2004

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- With a degree in Nursing, Physical Therapy, or Midwifery. License an advantage but not required
- Female; with minimum height of 5'6"; between 21-27 years old
- With pleasing personality; highly trainable

ASSISTANT F & B MANAGER

- Capable of handling banquet planning and operations
- Has a minimum of three years experience in a multi-operational type of establishment, preferably in the hospitality or service industry
- With good training skills; knowledgeable in handling F & B administrative functions

SALES EXECUTIVES

- With a marketing or business-related degree
- Has hotel sales experience; loves field work; with established network of clients
- Eloquent; highly personable; preferably female

SHIFT ENGINEER

- Licensed Electrical and/or Mechanical Engineer
- With at least 4 years relevant experience as a supervisor, preferably in a hotel setting
- Has working knowledge of PABX system, and building maintenance

RESTAURANT SUPERVISOR

- With a minimum of two years experience in fine dining and restaurant operations
- Male/Female; not more than 30 years old; with pleasing personality
- With training skills; can manage a shift

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(Full-time/Week Enders/Par-time)

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- Not more than 28 years old; at least 5'4" (female)/ 5'6" (male) tall
- With pleasing personality and good communication skills

All positions are Batangas-based.

Interested applicants can bring or send their resumé (with ID picture) and application letter to:

Human Resources Department
Hotel Pontefino
Brgy. Gulod Labac, Batangas City
or
HR Management Group
24th Flr., IBM Plaza, Eastwood City, Libis, Quezon City
(visit our website at http://www.pontefino.com.ph)

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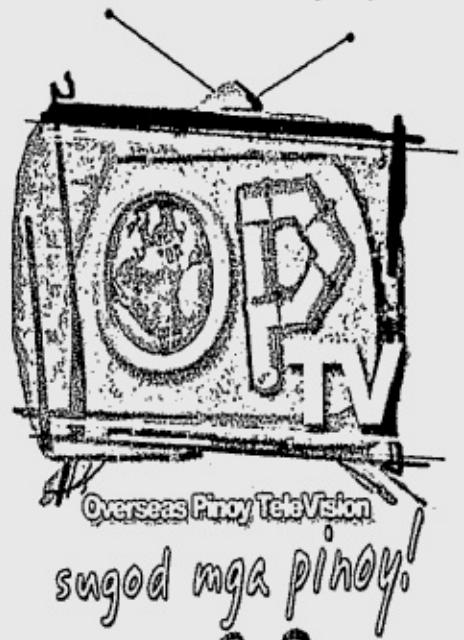

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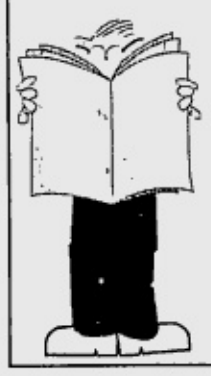

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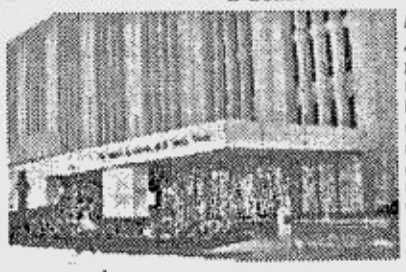

Princeton Baptist Medical Center in Birmingham, Alabama, U.S.A. is a faith based, not-for-profit health care provider, committed to a ministry of healing that touches the minds and spirits - as well as the bodies - of those we serve. Princeton Baptist offers innovative, state-of-the-art medical care combined with compassion for the individual and much more. Princeton is a 499 bed tertiary level facility comprised of 15 patient care units: 3 adult ICUs; a 12-bed Step-down Unit; Medical-Surgical units that include Cardiac, Oncology, Women's Unit; Rehab plus ER Department and Operating Room. Our primary need is medical-surgical nurses for evening and night shifts.

Princeton Baptist will be returning to the Philippines for recruitment of additional Filipino nurses. Since their first trip last June 2001, Princeton Baptist has already employed 10 nurses deployed by IPAMS and HealthStar along with their bona fide families. They are now conveniently settled and enjoying their new life and rewarding careers with Princeton Baptist. Additional 52 nurses are underprocess for their appropriate deployment to Princeton Baptist within the next few months.

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HealthStar International Inc., from *Houston, Texas* will be in town on March 3 to March 7, 2004 identifying nurses for its client, *Princeton Baptist Medical Center based in Birmingham, Alabama.* There will be a final selection with direct hire contract execution.

To take advantage of this opportunity, Metro Manila candidates must personally apply ASAP. Provincial candidates may send their comprehensive resume, school records (diploma, transcript of records), board rating, training certificates, employment credentials, plus two (2) passport photographs to

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- Refrigeration & Airconditioning Technician
- Dental Technician
- Dentist
- Drainlayer
- Gasfitter
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2. College diploma
3. Transcript of records with RLE
4. PRC license with board rating
5. Employment certificate
6. Birth certificate of applicant (include spouse & children, if applicable)
7. Marriage certificate (if married)
8. CGFNS, TOEFL, TSE, IELTS certificates (if available)
9. 2x2 picture

Representatives from the USA will interview applicants from February 27 - March 9, 2004. Contracts will be awarded on the spot to qualified candidates with complete paperwork.

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A project funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and implemented by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), is in search of qualified candidates for the following consultancy positions:

1. **Climate Change Specialist**
2. **Biodiversity Specialist**
3. **Land Degradation Specialist**

I. DURATION OF THE ASSIGNMENT
The duration of the services for each of the abovementioned consultant shall be eighteen (18) months.

II. SCOPE OF WORK
Each consultant shall:
1. Advise on specific issues within each thematic area, as detailed in individual terms of reference.
2. Produce reports and information in the required standard and format, and within the budget and deadlines.
3. Liaise closely with the Project Coordinator and UNDP on all activities.
4. Facilitate a participatory approach to the project, ensuring that all key stakeholders can be appropriately represented in the process.
5. Consult with key stakeholders (though appraisals, workshops and interviews) to develop a common agreed assessment and a plan for interventions as inputs to the thematic report.
6. Report and provide information on the above duties in a timely and appropriate fashion, in a format required by and agreed with the Project Coordinator.
7. Ensure all activities are delivered within agreed deadlines and budgets.
8. Work closely with the Project Coordinator, DENR and UNDP in the preparation of the document for submission.

Specific tasks will include:
1. Gathering and review of existing documents in respective thematic areas.
2. Formulate a draft prioritization criteria (to be approved by thematic committees or focal points and the PMB) and apply the approved prioritization criteria to determine what documents will be reviewed and incorporated into a thematic "stock-taking" report.
3. Draft the common methodology (to be reviewed and approved by the PMB) including the format for presenting the information. The methodology should include a particular focus on exploring cross-cutting and synergistic issues in the prioritized documents.
4. Review of relevant information following the approved common methodology.
5. Participate in programme meetings, workshops, focus group discussions, leading the discussion where we requested and necessary. Similarly, amending the study based on outputs/comments of meetings where appropriate.
6. Submit comprehensive thematic report to the appropriate thematic committees for review, comment or revision.
7. Respond to any query/comment of the committees, PMB, DENR and/or UNDP-related draft thematic reports.

III. QUALIFICATIONS
Experience
1. The candidate for each of the thematic posts (climate change, biodiversity and land degradation) must be knowledgeable and familiar with the provisions of the Philippine Agenda 21, related MEAs/Conventions/Protocols and the corresponding national plans, policies and programs in his or her thematic area, e.g. (i) UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol; (ii) Convention on Biological Diversity and (iii) UN Convention on Combating Desertification.
2. He/she must have at least five (5) years in natural resources or environmental management or a related field, with a degree in Natural Resources or Environment or other related field. Similarly, he/she must have at least five (5) years experience in his/her particular thematic area. A higher degree specializing in the same field or in the area of his/her thematic area would be an advantage.
3. Previous experience: (i) working with government agencies, NGOs and the private sector in the Philippines; (ii) working with projects that deal with the aforementioned conventions or environmental management; (iii) and with previous capacity assessment work would also be an advantage.

Skills and Experience
1. Written and oral communication skills including the capacity to relate to both the internal and external constituencies of the project.
2. Excellent evaluation and analysis skills.
3. Working knowledge of developmental and environmental issues within the Philippines, Asia-Pacific region and globally.
4. Experience in broad-based stakeholder consultation.
5. Knowledge of institutional and individual capability building issues.

Personal Attributes
1. Proven ability to work with teams
2. Ability to work independently and as a member of a team
3. Patience and tolerance for other perspectives
4. Capacity to work under pressure
5. Commitment to social justice, environment and development

IV. COORDINATION AND SUPPORT
For the duration of the project, the Specialists will directly coordinate with and report to the Project Coordinator for overall guidance. He/she shall also closely liaise with the respective thematic committees to ensure the effective and efficient progression of work and delivery of the outputs. His/her salary shall be drawn from the approved project funds.

4. Institutional/Stakeholder Analysis Specialist/Team Leader

I. DURATION OF ASSIGNMENT
The duration of the services of the consultant shall be eighteen (18) months

II. SCOPE OF WORK
As the Institutional Specialist, the consultant shall:
1. Design the in-depth capacity analysis process and methodology as well as plan of intervention in consultation with the DENR, the NCSA Steering Committee, thematic focal points and other key partners.
2. Design a stakeholder analysis process and develop consultation methodologies to be used during implementation of the project.
3. Identify critical stakeholder analysis process and assist in convening technical workshops with presentation from key institutions such as the SCBD, SCLR, IACCC, the Eco-governance Initiative, the University of the Philippines and the Asian Institute of Management to assist in the effort and to validate the process and consultation methodologies.
4. Facilitate a participatory approach to the project, ensuring that all key stakeholders including the LGUs can be appropriately represented in the process.
5. Facilitate consultations/workshops and document proceedings.
6. Conduct trainings of partners on how to conduct participatory stakeholders, workshop including conflict resolution.
7. Produce reports and information in the required standard and format, within budget and deadlines.
8. Liaise closely with the thematic focal agencies and the UNDP on all activities.
9. Analyze the cross-cutting issues and potential synergies across and between the thematic areas.
10. Incorporate/integrate the thematic reports into a final, comprehensive "stock-taking" report.
11. Facilitate/assist in the development of a capacity-building project framework and design-based on the results of the assessment.

As the TA Team Leader, the consultant shall:
1. Supervise and coordinate the work of the three thematic experts in order to ensure the effective and efficient progression of work and delivery of putputs.
2. Consolidate thematic reports into a final, comprehensive "stock-taking" report.
3. Finalize the Stock-taking Consultation/Priority-Setting Report and in the process, define/enhance priority actions among measures outlined in the draft report and other inputs from the workshop, including the addition of national priorities and policies in the context of the WSSD.
4. Consolidate monthly outputs related to technical aspects of project components and their corresponding expected outputs.

III. QUALIFICATIONS

Educational Background
The candidate must have a degree in Natural Resources or Environment, Engineering, Law, Environmental Economics or similar field (post graduate qualification is an advantage).

Skills and Experience
1. Knowledgeable and familiar with the provisions of the: (i) UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and Kyoto Protocol; (ii) Convention on Biological Diversity; (iii) UN Convention on Combating Desertification; (iv) Philippine Agenda 21; (v) National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan; (vi) Country Programme on Climate Change and other related country programs and plans.
2. Familiar with national and local decision-making processes (planning, budgeting and programming).
3. Has at least 10 years working experience on participatory, bottom-up planning processes, consensus building and ENR policy formulation and project implementation.
4. Knowledgeable and has experience on participatory, bottom-up planning processes, consensus building and ENR policy formulation and project implementation.
5. Has experience and skills on project management, design and development.
6. Has experience and skills on the design and execution of training programs.
7. Has experience on working with government agencies, NGOs and the private sector in the Philippines.
8. Has knowledge of institutional and individual capability building issues and experienced and skilled in institutional/capacity assessment and development.
9. Has excellent written and oral communication skills including the capacity to relate to both the internal and external constituencies of the project.
10. Has the capacity to link micro field based project work with broader macro public policy issues.
11. Has full understanding of community, regional and global conservation and development issues and their inter-relationships.
12. Computer literate

Personal Attributes
1. Has proven ability to work with and lead teams of people
2. Has ability to work independently
3. Patient and tolerant of others' perspectives
4. Has capacity to work under pressure
5. Committed to social justice, environment and development

IV. COORDINATION AND SUPPORT

For the duration of the project, the Institutional Specialist/Team Leader will directly coordinate with and report to the Project Director for overall guidance.

All application letters and comprehensive resumes should reach our office on or before 27 February 2004. Address applications to the Development Support Services Center, United Nations Development Programme, 7th Floor, NEDA sa Makati Building, 106 Amorsolo Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City (via courier) or P.O. Box 7285 Domestic Airport Post Office Lock Box 1300 Domestic Road, Pasay City (via airmail), tel. nos. 892-0611 to 25 loc. 386/275, fax nos. 816 4061/893 9598, email address: bc_admin.ph@undp.org.

Only shortlisted candidates will be notified.

This advertisement shall remain posted in www.undp.org.ph until February 27, 2004.

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KAIZEN ENGINEER
- Male, 24-28 years old; Licensed Mechanical or Electrical Engineer.
- Analytical and has the drive to implement projects.
- With good interpersonal and leadership skills.
- Machine Shop skills an advantage but not required.
- Computer literate; CAD knowledge is a definite advantage.
- Place of Assignment: Sta. Maria, Bulacan.

Q.A. AUDITORS
- Male/Female, 22-27 years old; Graduates of B.S. ME, EE, ChE or IE.
- Experience not required but knowledge and exposure on ISO systems, quality inspections, SPC, dimensional measurements, etc. is a definite advantage.
- Will conduct process and product audits, perform process and equipment validations and certifications, assist in setting-up OPCR systems, SPC, and quality control points.
- Willing to be assigned in Sta. Maria, Bulacan.

1. PRODUCTION ENGINEERS/SHIFT ENGINEERS
2. PROCESS ENGINEERS
3. PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT ENGINEER
- Male, 21-30 years old; Graduates of Engineering: ME, EE, ECE, ChE, Metallurgical.
- Experience not required but must possess potentials for the job. Those with exposure to manufacturing operations have a definite advantage.
- With good communication and leadership skills.
- Willing to be based in Bulacan.

1. ENVIRONMENTAL FACILITIES ENGINEER
2. ENVIRONMENTAL CHEMIST/ Q.A. LABORATORY CHEMIST
- Male, 21-30 years old; Graduate of either Mechanical or Chemical Engineering/Chemistry.
- With experience in Wastewater Treatment Plant Operations and Pollution Control.
- Flexible, fast learner and hands-on engineer.
- For Bulacan assignment.

CAD DESIGNERS
- Male, 24-35 years old; Engineering or technical course graduate.
- MUST have experience on autocad, tooling design/analysis and other drawing softwares.
- Highly computer literate, flexible and with excellent technical skills.

1. STRATEGIC PLANNING ASSISTANT/ TECHNICAL STAFF ASSISTANT
2. GHK LEAD AUDITOR
- Male/Female, 24-28 years old; Graduate of Industrial Engineering or other related course.
- Preferably with experience on strategic planning process.
- For the GHK Auditor, preferably with auditing skills.
- Computer literate and excellent communication skills.
- For Sta. Maria, Bulacan assignment.

1. S.A.P. CONSULTANT TRAINEES
2. SYSTEMS DEVELOPERS/ANALYSTS
- Male/Female, 21-30 years old; Graduate of any four-year course. Fresh graduates are welcome to apply. Those with I.T. experience have a definite advantage.
- Must be interested to build a career on S.A.P. Consultancy.
- With excellent scholastic records and communication skills.
- Flexible and with good leadership ability.

WE OFFER ATTRACTIVE COMPENSATION & BENEFITS PACKAGE.

THESE ARE ALL URGENT REQUIREMENTS. ALL QUALIFIED APPLICANTS ARE REQUESTED TO APPLY PERSONALLY WITH THEIR RESUME, 2X2 PICTURE AND T.O.R. TO:

CORPORATE RECRUITMENT SECTION (BATTERY GROUP)
80-82 Roces Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
E-mail Address: ebmuscat@motolite.com

Previous applicants need not apply.

ZTE中兴

ZTE Corporation is China's largest listed telecom equipment provider offering total network solutions for telecom operators worldwide. The company develops and manufactures telecom equipment for wireless, data, optical and next generation networks —— If you value a challenging career in a fast growing telecom company that provides very attractive compensation, comprehensive training, & opportunity for travel, we invite you to join our team as:

(15) SENIOR TECHNICAL SUPPORT ENGINEER
- To support the pre-sales telecom product marketing activities in trade shows, conferences, and product demos worldwide;
- To work with regional sales teams, interface with customers, understand their requirements & design total solutions.

POSITION REQUIREMENTS
- Strong interpersonal skills, self-motivated, & a good team player
- Excellent communication/presentation skills (Written/Oral English)
- Ready for global travel; can work and deliver under pressure
- In-depth knowledge of telecom industry & network evolution trend
- BSEE/BSECE/BSCoE from a reputable institution
- 3-4 years product marketing experience in telecom industry

If the job detailed above interests you, please send your resume with Senior Technical Support Engineer as the subject to e-mail add: **ZTEsingapore@zte.com.cn**

To know more about us please visit: **www.zte.com.cn**

BUSINESS PROCESSES OPERATION
NEW YORK TELECON

ACCOUNT MANAGER
- With salary of P190,000 – P250,000 per annum
- Preferably a graduate of UP, Ateneo or La Salle
- Must have at least one year experience in the field of sales and marketing
- Basic computer knowledge
- Good oral and written communication skills
- Willing to go on field and have flexible working hours

OUTBOUND SALES AGENTS
- With salary of P120,000 – P200,000 per annum
- Must have excellent command of the English language
- 18 to 27 years old, with outgoing personality
- Willing to work shifts (night/day or weekend)
- Basic computer knowledge
- Fresh graduates are welcome

PLS. SEND YOUR RESUMES WITH ID PICTURE TO:
marcia@nytelecon.com
or mail at P.O. Box 892 Dasmariñas Village, Makati City

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APL Co Pte Ltd

One of the Leading U.S. Containerized Shipping Company Seeks Top-Notch Candidates For:

MAINTENANCE & REPAIR MANAGER
- With excellent interpersonal skills and managerial capability
- With above average intelligence
- With Technical expertise in reefer, container and chassis maintenance
- With excellent oral and written communication
- With knowledge in computer operations
- Preferably graduates in any field of Engineering

We offer above average compensation package And the opportunity to work with a highly professional organization.

Please send your complete resumé with photo and transcript of records to email address **nenita.p_gudito@apl.com** or to HR Department P.O. Box 788 CPO 1099 Manila not later than March 5, 2004

Athena e-Services is a leader in outsourced Information Technology services. We offer solutions for clients in the field of print publication, litigation support, real estate, and the medical and health sciences profession, to name a few. With the company's requirements for immediate expansion, we invite highly skilled and motivated people to be part of our team.

ABSTRACTORS/DOCUMENT ANALYSTS
- Bachelor's/College degree preferably in English or Communication Arts
- High analytical and comprehension skills
- Must possess effective written and oral communication skills
- Keen to details
- Computer literate with typing speed of at least 35 wpm and 95% accuracy
- Willing to work on shifting schedule

Qualified individuals are requested to hand carry or send their resume, transcript of record, SSS# (E-1 form) and latest photo to:

ATHENA e-SERVICES, CORP.
Human Resources Department
Athena e-Plaza Building, Eastwood City,
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave., Bagumbayan, Q.C. 1110
E-mail jobs@athenaservices.com

Julie's BAKESHOP™

Julie's Franchise Corporation

WAREHOUSE/DISTRIBUTION SUPERVISOR
- a graduate of any Engineering course
- with at least 2 years supervisory experience in Warehousing and Distribution
- articulate, good communication skills
- willing to travel & be assigned anywhere in the Phils.

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT
- BS Accountancy graduate, CPA
- at least 2 years experience in a retail business
- computer literate
- preferably with exposure in any accounting software

TRAINING SPECIALIST
- a graduate of BS Food Tech or Psychology
- 1-3 years experience in designing training modules
- willing to travel & be assigned anywhere in the Phils.
- good oral and written communication skills (English & several other dialects)

BAKERY OPERATIONS SPECIALIST
- a graduate of BS Food Tech, Nutrition and Dietetics, Chemistry, HRM, or business-related courses
- good oral and written communication skills
- supervisory experience in bakery business/operation is an advantage
- good interpersonal skills
- willing to travel & be assigned anywhere in the Phils.
- willing to work overtime and on holidays
- preferably single
- computer-literate

BAKERY SUPERVISOR
- a graduate of any 4 year course
- customer service oriented
- good interpersonal skills
- experience in bakery business/operation is an advantage
- can handle pressure
- willing to be assigned anywhere in the Phils.
- willing to work overtime and on holidays

Please send your application letter and resumé to:
Julie's Franchise Corporation
Amang Rodriguez Avenue corner Ortigas Avenue Extension
Rosario, Pasig City

METRO GAISANO

Metro Gaisano has made a remarkable difference in the retail industry in its 21 years of existence in the Visayas. We are further expanding and soaring high as we open METRO MARKET MARKET in Fort Bonifacio.

STORE MANAGERS / SUPERVISORS
- Bachelor's degree graduate
- Minimum of 3 years work experience in same capacity from medium to large scale retail or food chain industry
- Excellent leadership and interpersonal skills

MECHANICAL & ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS
- Male, license holder
- Minimum of 3 years work experience in managerial or supervisory capacity
- Substantial exposure in preventive and corrective maintenance of mechanical equipment from medium to large scale industry (for ME) and industrial wiring and motor control (for EE)
- Strong leadership, organization and planning skills

MARKETING OFFICERS / ASSISTANTS
- Marketing major graduate or its related field
- Preferably with relevant work experience
- Personable, outgoing, with ability to profitably relate with customers

HRD OFFICERS / ASSISTANTS
- BS/AB Psychology graduate or any related discipline
- Preferably with 2 years exposure in all aspects of HR functions including but not limited to Recruitment, Training & Employee Relation
- Pleasant disposition, with excellent planning and judgement skills

JR. AUDITORS & ACCOUNTING CLERKS
- BS Accountancy graduate with above average scholastic records
- Minimum of 1 year work experience preferred
- Analytical, organized, with proficiency in oral and written communication

Interested parties may send their application letter, resume with recent 2x2 ID picture, and photocopy of Transcript of Records to:

THE HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER
METRO GAISANO
Mabini Street
(Between McKinley Parkway & C5 Road)
Fort Bonifacio Global City
Taguig, Metro Manila

e-mail: mgaisano@mozcom.com

GHD — MANAGEMENT ENGINEERING ENVIRONMENT

INTERIOR DESIGNER

Interior Designer required for International Architectural/ Engineering firm in Doha, Qatar for immediate start. Applicants must meet the following minimum criteria:

- 4-5 year Bachelor Degree in Interior Design / Architecture
- Minimum 5 years experience in Interior Design
- Fluent spoken/written English essential
- AutoCAD and Photoshop experience
- Experience in Hospitality and Retail Projects an advantage
- Experience in hand drafting and detailing, hand perspectives an advantage
- Client/Supplier liaison experience.

Please forward your CV, clearly stating number of years experience, I.D. photo and samples of work where appropriate to the HR Coordinator. Email: **memail@ghd.com.au.**

www.ghd.com.au

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Our vision is **Customers for Life.**
If you believe you have what it takes to achieve this vision, join us in our expansion and be a part of our dynamic team! Currently, we are in need of:

SOFTWARE ENGINEERS

Job Summary
Develops and documents software programs in either of these environments: Unix/ Linux, Mac, or Windows. Specific assignments will be in any of the following:
- Research, evaluation, development, testing, and the application of new processes and methods into current and future products.
- Establishes and conducts project plans, schedules, and documentation of work and results.
- Writes Windows based programs applications for testing printers at the end of the assembly line, or for functional testing of printer controller boards.

Qualifications
- A graduate of either BS Computer Engineering or Computer Science
- Strong in C/C++ programming language
- Proficient in Unix/Linux, Mac or Windows operating systems and programming
- Has working background in object-oriented programming
- With at least 2 years of relevant work experience

FIRMWARE DEVELOPERS

Job Summary
- Develop and document software programs in the Unix/Linux environment
- Duties may include research, evaluation, development, testing, and the application of new processes and methods related to firmware development into current and future products
- Provide firmware support in the areas of standard networking for Lexmark's laser and inkjet printers, Multi-function Devices (MFDs) as well as print server developments.

Qualifications
- Has a BS degree in any of the following: Computer Engineering, Computer Science, Electronics & Communications Engineering, or Electrical Engineering
- Strong in C/C++ programming language
- Must have programming experience in Linux/Unix
- Preferably with experience in any of the following: TCP/IP stack/application, embedded systems programming, network protocol, network security, USB or network Linux device driver, wireless network programming, and Linux kernel
- Has at least one year of relevant work experience, and willing to undergo training in the U.S.

BUILD ENGINEER

Job Summary
Builds source code and components in Windows, Mac, or Linux environment. Automates the build process using PERL.

Qualifications
- BS degree in Information Technology, Computer Engineering or Computer Science
- Has working knowledge in PERL Scripting, and in HTML/Web Development
- Familiar with SDLC, Systems Analysis & Design, Process Reengineering
- Competent in one of the following libraries: PVCS, CVS, ClearQuest

FIRMWARE TEST ENGINEERS

Job Summary
Perform test suites against printer firmware to verify correct device behavior and output. As problems are identified, the tester will track each problem and coordinate with development to reach a resolution. Multiple products will be tested in parallel, thus requiring the prioritization of tasks to meet business needs.

Qualifications
- BS degree in: Computer Engineering, Computer Science, or Electronics and Communications Engineering
- Detail oriented
- Knowledge of software development process
- Knowledge of Windows OS (Linux a plus)
- Additional skills beneficial to the position: formal test background, knowledge in scripting and Java, and experience with laser printers and AIO devices

ELECTRICAL HARDWARE ENGINEER

Job Summary
Develops functional testers for laser printer controller system cards. Designs interface card that provide stimulus and/or responses to the control board Unit under Test (UUT).

Qualifications
- Has a BS degree in any of the following: Computer Engineering, Electronics & Communications Engineering, or Electrical Engineering
- With good electronics skills (printed circuit board design and system electronics design - primarily digital)
- Highly skilled in schematic entry tools (Mentor Graphics preferred), and debugging hardware using scopes, logic analyzers, and other lab equipment
- Preferably with experience in FPGA/CPLD design, micro-controllers, C & assembly language
- Has at least 1 year of relevant work experience, and willing to undergo training in the U.S.

For applications to be significant, candidates should:
- be in the top 20 percent of their graduating class, or scored 80 percent or better in licensure exams
- be willing to relocate to Cebu City
- have strong technical and communication skills
- have excellent command of the English language, both oral and written

The company is a fast growing, integrated global developer and designer of software or firmware for Lexmark's printer products with headquarters in Lexington, Kentucky, U.S.A. We offer an attractive compensation package as well as opportunities for professional growth and development to the successful candidates.

LEXMARK IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER.
WE DO NOT DISCRIMINATE AGAINST RACE, COLOR, RELIGION, SEX, CIVIL STATUS, NATIONAL ORIGIN AND AGE.

Interested and qualified applicants may send a comprehensive résumé with transcript of records to the address below not later than **27 February 2004:**

THE HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
Lexmark Research & Development Corporation
2F Innove Ista Plaza, Samar Loop corner Panay Road, Cebu Business Park, Cebu City
or email comprehensive résumé including transcript of records (with position applied as subject) to: lrdchrd@lexmark.com.

Applications without transcript of records will not be considered.

Luneta Advertising, Inc.

is in need of:

3 Account/Sales Executives

- Male/Female from 25-40 years old
- Graduate of a 4 year course (preferably Business Management, Marketing or Advertising)
- Preferably with experience in selling billboard sites, signs and digital printing products (photographic billboards, banners, transit ads, etc.) or has worked in an advertising agency is a great advantage
- Have handled corporate accounts

We offer salary plus commissions

Interested applicants may submit their resumé with 2x2 picture and Transcript of Records at our office at:

5742 Kalayaan Avenue, Pinagkaisahan, Makati City
Telefax: 882-0275 to 77 * 882-0206

Or send thru e-mail your resumé with 2x2 picture @ lunetaad@compass.com.ph

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FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

We are a dynamic insurance and benefits consulting firm looking for individuals to fill-up the following:

TECHNICAL ASSOCIATES:
College graduate of B.S. Mathematics or Statistics. Must be proficient in computer, analytical and attentive to details. Will be trained in actuarial work and other consulting projects. Can work with minimal supervision.

ACCOUNT ASSISTANTS:
Graduate of any 4 to 5 year college course. Must be self-motivated and able to work with minimal supervision. Must possess good interpersonal and communication skills.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS:
Graduate of any 4 year college course. Must be computer literate, analytical and attentive to details.

We offer competitive compensation package to qualified applicants. Send your resumé, transcript of records and 2x2 I.D. picture to the following address, indicating the position you are applying for:

SOLUTIONS INCORPORATED (A Milliman Global Firm)
1650 Peñafrancia Street, Santiago Village, Makati City
Attention: Administrative Manager

Applications may also be sent by fax to 890-2737 or by e-mail to marita@solutions-phils.com. If sent by e-mail, please don't forget to scan your ID picture and transcript.

TAIYO YUDEN (PHILIPPINES), INC.

Happiness of Employees
Contribution to Society
Dividends to Stockholders

We are a Japanese manufacturing firm engaged in electronic parts and semi-conductor products located in the Phase I of the Mactan Export Processing Zone of Cebu.

We have subsidiaries all over the world spread across Asia, Europe and United States of America.

We hold prestige of our three marks of excellence in our certification to **ISO 14001, Quality System 9000 and Occupational Health and Safety Assessment Series 18001.**

We are presently open for the following positions awaiting for talented and highly-motivated individuals with the corresponding eligibility requirements:

JAPANESE INTERPRETER
- College Graduate
- Holds a Level 2 Japanese Proficiency Diploma
- Experienced in dealing with Japanese executives
- Familiar with the manufacturing set-up

PRODUCTION MANAGER
- Graduate of any Engineering course
- Holds management skills and administrative experience in electronics industry
- Japanese-speaking is an advantage

PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR
- Graduate of any Engineering course
- At least 2 years experience of handling and leading people
- Knowledgeable in MS Office applications

TECHNICIAN
- Graduate of Mechanical Engineering or Mechanical Technology Course
- Worked at least one year in the related fields
- Possesses skills in the maintenance, improvement and repair of machinery and equipment
- Able to conduct specific predictive and preventive maintenance of machines
- Proficient in Auto CAD

ENGINEER
- Licensed Electronic and Communications Engineer, Electrical Engineer or Chemical Engineer
- Knowledgeable in MS Office applications
- Preferably with working experience

PRODUCTION CONTROL PLANNER
PRODUCTION LINE LEADER
- Graduate of any Engineering course
- Experience in a manufacturing set-up is a preference
- Knowledgeable in MS Office Applications

ACCOUNTING CLERK
- BS Accountancy graduate
- Knowledgeable in MS Office Applications

APPLICATIONS PROGRAMMER
- Graduate of BS Computer Science or any related course
- Holds competencies in Power Builder, Visual Basic and other related tools

COMPANY NURSE
- Registered Nurse
- Preferably with background in Occupational Health and Safety practices
- Knowledgeable in MS Office Applications

TRAINING IN-CHARGE
- Graduate of any behavioral-related course
- Working experience with a Japanese firm is an advantage
- Knowledgeable in MS Office Applications

Kindly email your resumé to recruitment@pty.yuden.co.jp or send your application letter with resumé and photo to:

Human Capital Department Manager
Human Capital Department
TAIYO YUDEN (PHILIPPINES) INC.
Mactan Economic Zone 1
Lapulapu City

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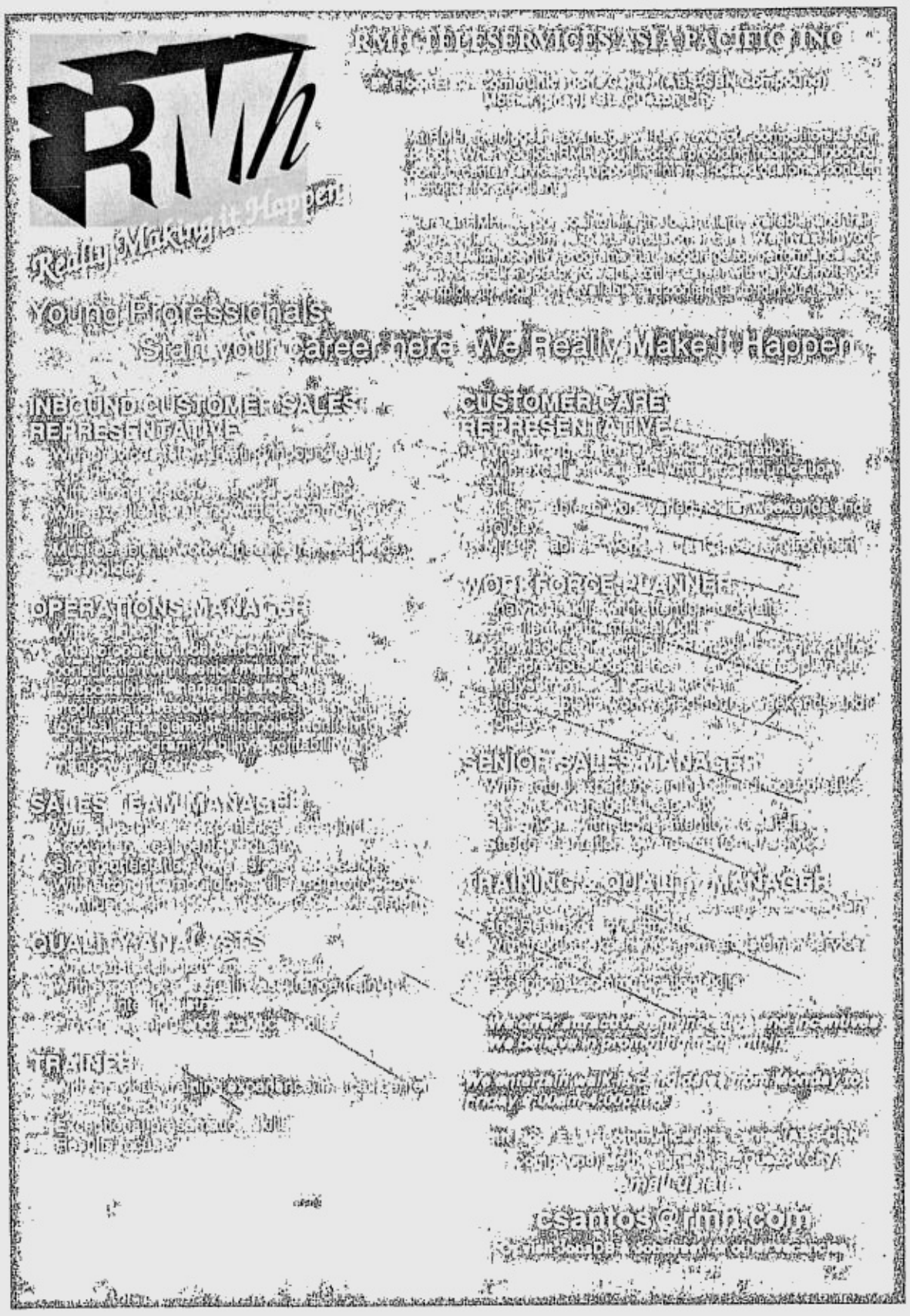

Stores Specialists, Inc.

Is in immediate need of top caliber

BOUTIQUE MANAGERS/ SALES SUPERVISORS

- Female; at least 5'2" in height
- Between 25-35 years old
- Graduate of a four (4) year course
- Preferably with work experience in a fashion retail establishment
- Must possess a pleasing and aggressive personality
- Must be very good in customer relations
- Must be willing to work on weekends and holidays
- Must be proficient in both oral and written communications
- Must be computer literate

QUALIFIED APPLICANTS ARE REQUESTED TO E-MAIL OR SEND IMMEDIATELY THEIR COMPREHENSIVE RESUMÉ, TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDS AND A RECENT 2x2 PHOTO TO:

STORES SPECIALISTS, INC.
Human Resources Management Division
(c/o Executive Administration)
Ground Floor, Midland Buendia Bldg.
403 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City
E-mail address: cspagkalinawan@rgoc.com.ph

(We will reply to qualified applicants only)

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

A. Supervisor
a. Graduate of any four year business course
b. Female, at least 5'4" in height
c. 24 to 28 years old
d. With experience in retail business
e. Willing to work under pressure

B. Stock Clerk & Cashier
a. Female
b. Knowledge in basic internet
c. Knowledge in MS Office (Word, Excel...)
d. Knowledge in Windows Command
e. Knowledge in Basic PC trouble-shooting

C. Sales Staff
a. Female, 5'4" in height, with pleasing personality
b. 21 to 24 years old
c. at least college level

D. Office Clerk
a. Female, Single, 21 to 25 years old
b. Graduate of any 4 year Business Course
c. Proficient in English, both in Oral and Written
d. Knowledgeable in Microsoft Office (Word, Excel...)

E. Sales Supervisor / Sales Executive
a. Female, 21-28 years old
b. With experience in direct sales
c. At least college level
d. With experience as medical representative an advantage

A, B and C applicants must be willing to be assigned at SM Southmall, SM Sucat, SM Festival Mall and SM Dasmariñas branches.

Interested applicants may mail/hand-carry their resumé with 2x2 photo at:

CHRIS SPORTS PLAZA
Human Resource Department
3/F K-Plaza Bldg., #18 Kamuning Rd.
Quezon City

ICT GROUP

What It Means To Be In Touch

The CRM Services Company

ICT GROUP is a leading globally integrated supplier of customer relationship management (CRM) solutions. We provide a comprehensive suite of sales, service and marketing solutions designed to help clients identify, acquire, retain, service, measure and maximize the lifetime value of their customer relationships.

More than 11,000 ICT GROUP employees at nearly 50 contact centers in the United States, Canada, Europe, Australia, Mexico, the Caribbean and the Philippines support multinational corporations and institutions, primarily in the financial services, insurance, telecommunications, healthcare, information technology, media, energy and hospitality industries.

In the Philippines, ICT Group has been noted as one of the fast-growing call centers in Manila giving opportunities to individuals who are comfortable with technology and committed to client satisfaction and total quality.

Customer Service Representative

Responsibilities:
- Acts as front-line contact with customers by telephonic communications
- Receives and responds to problems, queries, and requests of the customer
- Ensures customer satisfaction

Requirements:
1.Financial Account
- Preferably with experience in a mortgage or financial account

2.Sales Account
- Preferably with experience in sales and telemarketing

Qualifications:
- Bachelor's / College Degree
- Excellent communication skills in conversational English
- Active listening skills
- Strong interpersonal skills to work with the customer and with the team
- Willing to work on nighttime shifting schedule
- Fresh graduates are encouraged to apply

Interested applicants may send their resume to recruitingmanila@ictgroup.com or visit us at the 19th Floor, Tower 2, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Avenue corner Senator Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City.

Send those resumés instantly.

www.jobmarketonline.com

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CASCADE

Department of Agriculture
CARABALLO & SOUTHERN CORDILLERA AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
A PROGRAMME FOR SELF-RELIANCE

GININTUANG MASAGANANG ANI

ERP-CASCADE in its final phase of implementation is urgently seeking

MICRO FINANCE OFFICER
(Level II - P20,000+)

The Micro Finance Officer is field staff tasked to develop self-reliant Savings Loan Groups (SLGs) and Rural Finance Centers (RFCs) (under the Rural Finance Component) by improving their technical, managerial and financial capabilities. Coordinates with the project partners and or client beneficiaries in the implementation of the projects rural finance activities.

The ideal candidate must satisfy the following minimum requirements:
- Bachelors Degree in Business Management/Economics/Accounting/Commerce/Banking and Finance or related courses graduate;
- With at least one (1) year experience in Rural Finance work (MFI/Credit Coops/Self Help Groups);
- With work experience in development projects;
- With strong accounting background.

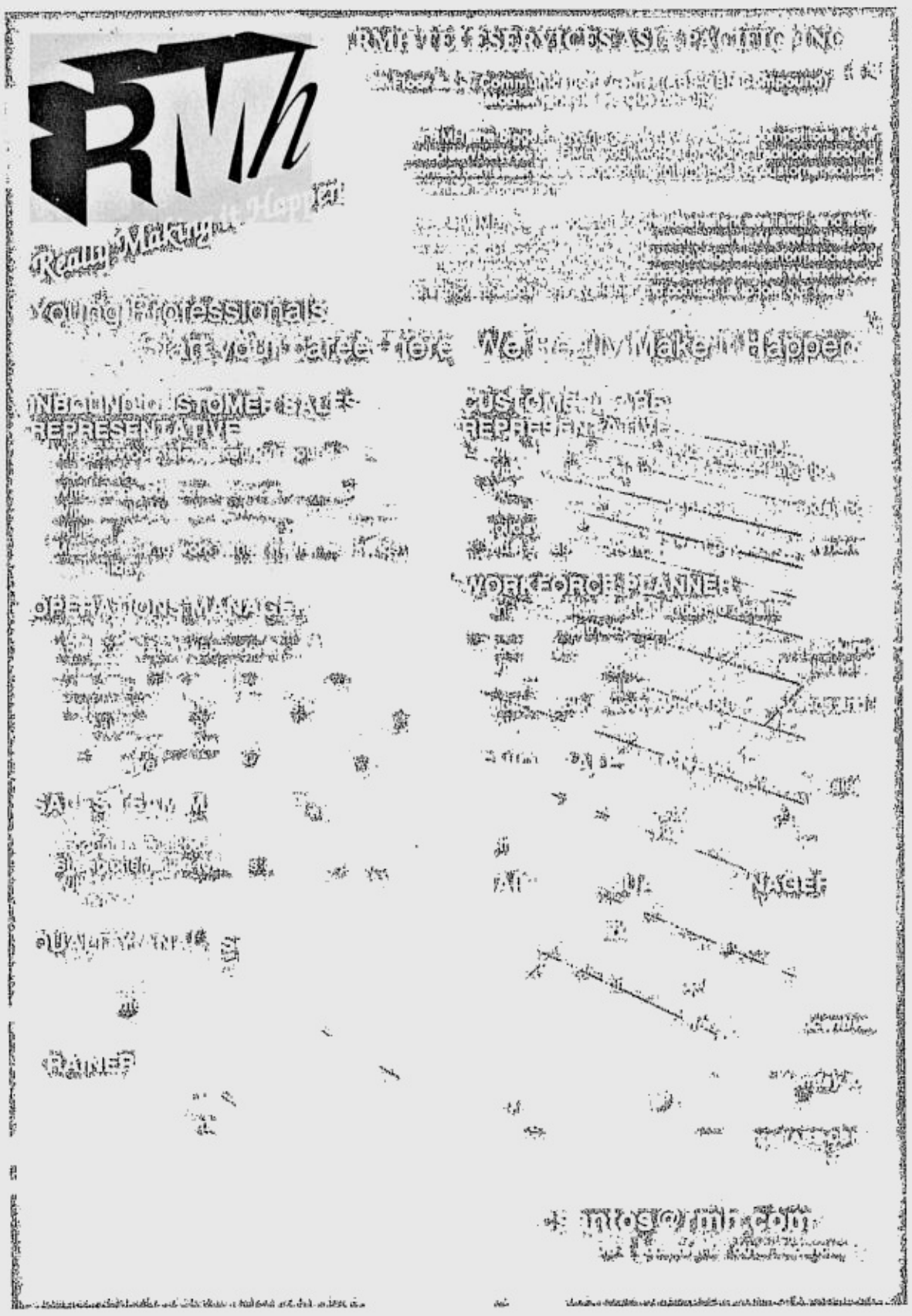
The period of assignment is until July 2004. Interested candidates must submit their letter of interest, accompanied by the most recent Curriculum Vitaé to the address below not later than **February 27, 2004** via fax, parcel or e-mail due to the urgency of the requirement.

(Note: The Project will only respond to applicants meeting the above requirements.)

The Project Co-Directors: ERP-CASCADE
Maharlika Highway, Bonfal West, Bayombong, 3700 Nueva Vizcaya
E-mail: cascade_erp@yahoo.co.uk (Fax: 078-8053611)

For more information please visit our website: www.erpcascade.org

CASCADE is a special project of the Department of Agriculture funded by the Philippines Government and the European Commission



Stores Specialists, Inc.

Is in immediate need of top caliber

BOUTIQUE MANAGERS/ SALES SUPERVISORS

- Female; at least 5'2" in height
- Between 25-35 years old
- Graduate of a four (4) year course
- Preferably with work experience in a fashion retail establishment
- Must possess a pleasing and aggressive personality
- Must be very good in customer relations
- Must be willing to work on weekends and holidays
- Must be proficient in both oral and written communications
- Must be computer literate

QUALIFIED APPLICANTS ARE REQUESTED TO E-MAIL OR SEND IMMEDIATELY THEIR COMPREHENSIVE RESUMÉ, TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDS AND A RECENT 2x2 PHOTO TO:

STORES SPECIALISTS, INC.
Human Resources Management Division
(c/o Executive Administration)
Ground Floor, Midland Buendia Bldg.
403 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City
E-mail address: cspagkalinawan@rgoc.com.ph

(We will reply to qualified applicants only)

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

A. Supervisor
a. Graduate of any four year business course
b. Female, at least 5'4" in height
c. 24 to 28 years old
d. With experience in retail business
e. Willing to work under pressure

B. Stock Clerk & Cashier
a. Female
b. Knowledge in basic internet
c. Knowledge in MS Office (Word, Excel...)
d. Knowledge in Windows Command
e. Knowledge in Basic PC trouble-shooting

C. Sales Staff
a. Female, 5'4" in height, with pleasing personality
b. 21 to 24 years old
c. at least college level

D. Office Clerk
a. Female, Single, 21 to 25 years old
b. Graduate of any 4 year Business Course
c. Proficient in English, both in Oral and Written
d. Knowledgeable in Microsoft Office (Word, Excel...)

E. Sales Supervisor / Sales Executive
a. Female, 21-28 years old
b. With experience in direct sales
c. At least college level
d. With experience as medical representative an advantage

A, B and C applicants must be willing to be assigned at SM Southmall, SM Sucat, SM Festival Mall and SM Dasmariñas branches.

Interested applicants may mail/hand-carry their resumé with 2x2 photo at:

CHRIS SPORTS PLAZA
Human Resource Department
3/F K-Plaza Bldg., #18 Kamuning Rd.
Quezon City

ICT GROUP
What It Means To Be In Touch
The CRM Services Company

ICT GROUP is a leading globally integrated supplier of customer relationship management (CRM) solutions. We provide a comprehensive suite of sales, service and marketing solutions designed to help clients identify, acquire, retain, service, measure and maximize the lifetime value of their customer relationships.

More than 11,000 ICT GROUP employees at nearly 50 contact centers in the United States, Canada, Europe, Australia, Mexico, the Caribbean and the Philippines support multinational corporations and institutions, primarily in the financial services, insurance, telecommunications, healthcare, information technology, media, energy and hospitality industries.

In the Philippines, ICT Group has been noted as one of the fast-growing call centers in Manila giving opportunities to individuals who are comfortable with technology and committed to client satisfaction and total quality.

Customer Service Representative

Responsibilities:
- Acts as front-line contact with customers by telephonic communications
- Receives and responds to problems, queries, and requests of the customer
- Ensures customer satisfaction

Requirements:
1.Financial Account
- Preferably with experience in a mortgage or financial account

2.Sales Account
- Preferably with experience in sales and telemarketing

Qualifications:
- Bachelor's / College Degree
- Excellent communication skills in conversational English
- Active listening skills
- Strong interpersonal skills to work with the customer and with the team
- Willing to work on nighttime shifting schedule
- Fresh graduates are encouraged to apply

Interested applicants may send their resume to recruitingmanila@ictgroup.com or visit us at the 19th Floor, Tower 2, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Avenue corner Senator Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City.

Department of Agriculture
CARABALLO & SOUTHERN CORDILLERA AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
A PROGRAMME FOR SELF-RELIANCE

CASCADE

GININTUANG MASAGANANG ANI

ERP-CASCADE in its final phase of implementation is urgently seeking

MICRO FINANCE OFFICER
(Level II - P20,000+)

The Micro Finance Officer is field staff tasked to develop self-reliant Savings Loan Groups (SLGs) and Rural Finance Centers (RFCs) (under the Rural Finance Component) by improving their technical, managerial and financial capabilities. Coordinates with the project partners and or client beneficiaries in the implementation of the projects rural finance activities.

The ideal candidate must satisfy the following minimum requirements:
- Bachelors Degree in Business Management/Economics/Accounting/Commerce/Banking and Finance or related courses graduate;
- With at least one (1) year experience in Rural Finance work (MFI/Credit Coops/Self Help Groups);
- With work experience in development projects;
- With strong accounting background.

The period of assignment is until July 2004. Interested candidates must submit their letter of interest, accompanied by the most recent Curriculum Vitaé to the address below not later than **February 27, 2004** via fax, parcel or e-mail due to the urgency of the requirement.

(Note: The Project will only respond to applicants meeting the above requirements.)

The Project Co-Directors: ERP-CASCADE
Maharlika Highway, Bonfal West, Bayombong, 3700 Nueva Vizcaya
E-mail: cascade_erp@yahoo.co.uk (Fax: 078-8053611)

For more information please visit our website: www.erpcascade.org

CASCADE is a special project of the Department of Agriculture funded by the Philippines Government and the European Commission

Send those resumés instantly.
www.jobmarketonline.com
JOBMarket ONLINE

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Social Welfare and Development
Bids & Awards Committee - I

PHILIPPINE 2000

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

KALAHI-CIDSS SPECIAL EVENTS MANAGER

The Department of Social Welfare and Development through the Kapit Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan-Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services Project (KALAHI-CIDSS Project) received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan for the payment of professional services under this contract.

The KALAHI-CIDSS Project is organizing an exhibit and conference workshop of its community driven development projects (CDD) nationwide. The event entails the gathering of Project stakeholders through regional conferences culminating in a national exhibit/conference. The regional and national conferences will present various experiences of people involved in the KALAHI-CIDSS Project while the national exhibit will showcase community projects in different regions. The DSWD now invites individual proponents for the Hiring of Services of a professionals Special Events Manager (SEM).

The Consultant should meet the following qualifications:

1. More than three (3) years experience with credible reputation as event organizer;
2. With program/project experience relevant or related to exhibit and conference events;
3. With extensive network and good working relationship with other event contractors, vendors, suppliers, civil society, NGOs, government, media and donor institutions;
4. Proven skills in project management;
5. Excellent oral and written communication skills; and
6. Can work effectively with minimum supervision, as well as with a team.

Expected Outputs/Deliverables

The following are the expected outputs of the consultant:

1. Logistic plan, layouts, and even/in-hall management
2. Stage backdrop and platform
3. Hall facade design and installation
4. DSWD, donors and regional offices logo board
5. Streamer, A-stands, Hang signs, flyers
6. Laminated IDs with string
7. Opening ceremonies (planning, organizing and staging)
8. Closing/Awarding ceremonies (Planning, organizing and staging)

Applicants shall submit their Application Letters, Comprehensive Resumé and Samples of documents prepared/drafted to the BAC Secretariat, 2nd Floor, DSWD Central Office, Batasan Hills, Quezon City with Telephone Numbers (02) 951-7116 on before **February 27, 2004** at 5:00 p.m.

(Sgd.) **RHODA F. YAP**
Assistant Secretary & Chairperson
Bids & Awards Committee-I

A premiere business hotel in Batangas City is looking for:

ENTERTAINERS

Any of the following will qualify:
- Soloist
- Soloist with accompaniment
- Soloist who can play guitar, piano, flute, or violin
- Acoustic group for duo or quartet

Interested parties must be willing to:
- Do night performances from Monday to Sunday
- Go for an audition

We invite qualified applicants to send their profile to:

BOX CODE: 777
c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
5th flr. Bldg. B, SM Megamall
Edsa, Mandaluyong City

IREMIT
GLOBAL REMITTANCE

iRemit Incorporated is engaged in International Money Transfer Services.
Due to its rapid expansion, we are urgently in need of the following:

COUNTRY CUSTOMER CARE OFFICERS (5)

- shall oversee the direct and smooth flow of transactions of his/her country assignment, ensuring the efficient and effective servicing of remittance to beneficiaries.
- with opportunity for foreign assignment

Qualifications:
- Bachelor's degree holder in any Business related course, preferably with Accounting background from a reputable school
- With at least two (2) year experience in banking, remittance or other financial institutions
- With excellent communication, presentation and interpersonal skills
- Knowledge of any third language is an advantage
- Must be willing to work on shifts, extended hours and holidays
- Knowledgeable of MS application

TELEMARKETING ASSOCIATES (3)

- shall be responsible for promoting the products and services of the company

Qualifications:
- College graduate of any Business course
- With at least one year experience in the same position gained from banks, remittance industry or other financial institutions
- Highly conversant and has a well-modulated voice
- With high level of motivation and drive to succeed
- Willing to work on shifts and holidays

Previous applicants need not apply.

Send your application papers to :
Human Resources and Corporate Services
iRemit Incorporated
26/F Discovery Centre, 25 ADB Ave.,
Ortigas Center Pasig City
careers@iremit-inc.com

www.myiremit.com

A COMPANY WITH 47 YEARS EXPERIENCE AS OWNER, BUILDER & DEVELOPER IN THE REAL ESTATE INDUSTRY NEEDS 8 MEN & WOMEN AS "MANAGEMENT TRAINEES."

IF YOU ARE:
- Confident and energetic
- Result & financially motivated
- Good communication skills & strong personal network
- Work well without direct supervision

IF YOU ARE CHOSEN TO JOIN OUR TEAM, WE OFFER:
- Minimum: Php 10,000 with transportation allowance
- Exciting foreign assignments

Please, submit or hand-carry your resumé, 2 x 2 photo on or before Feb. 28, 2004

Unit 4 – No. 56 Hernandez Townhomes
Corner D.B. Hernandez Avenue &
F.B. Harrison St., Pasay City, 1300
Tel. Nos. 834-6840; 834-6841; 833-7093
Attn: Constantino M. Jayme

Urgently Required
For a corporate publishing firm

Experienced Copywriters

Layout Artists
knowledge of Mac/PC InDesign and/or Pagemaker is an advantage
experienced in magazine layouts

Technical Writers
excellent English writing skills
computer-literate

Applicants from Mandaluyong, Makati or San Juan preferred

Interested parties could send their resumes to:
P.O. Box 275 Greenhills Post Office
Or fax them to : (02) 8505527
Or email them to. kentmnl@mozcom.com

SAKAE SUSHI PHIL.

206 Carpark Bldg., Bridgeway Greenhills Shopping Center San Juan, MM is in need:

Restaurant Manager
- Age 25 o 30
- HRM graduates 2 to 3 yrs. working experience
- Pleasing personality, able to command
- Must be fluent in English, Mandarin and Fukien both oral and written
- Knowledge on Japanese cuisines

Service supervisor and crews:
- Age 25 to 30
- HRM graduates
- Pleasing personality, fast in mobility
- Good penmanship and fluent in English
- Good in Math, knowledge in computer

Chef and crews:
- Age 30 to 35
- 3 to 5 yrs. in Japanese cuisine
- efficient and fast working
- good in Math and penmanship

WANTED IMMEDIATELY
Accounting Assistant
- Female college graduate - Acctg. Major
- Computer literate at least 6 months experience
- 21-25 years old

Call Flor – 890-9945 / 870-9474

Where you find the best.

JOBMarket ONLINE
VISIT US AT
www.jobmarketonline.com

Hokei Subic Corporation
#40 Golden Future St. cor. Aim High Ave. Subic Bay Industrial Park
is in need of:

CHEF COOK

Qualification:
- Female, 25 to 35 years of age
- At least graduate of 4-year course in HRM in any prestigious Universities and College in Manila
- Must have at least a minimum of 1 year related working experience in a hotel/Restaurant
- With good communication skills oral and written, must be fluent in English
- Can speak Mandarin & Fokien
- Know how to cook Taiwanese, Chinese & Vietnamese food

Interested applicants may call and send their comprehensive resumé with 2x2 colored picture to Ms. Erly Bautista and Ms. Arlene Barba at tel. no. (047) 252-5395/96.

DATACARE IS IN NEED OF

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES
- 22-28 years old
- Graduate of any 4-year course preferably computer related
- Aggressive, hardworking and with pleasing personality
- At least one (1) year experience in Sales

SALES TRAINEES
- 20-25 years old
- Graduate of any 4-year course preferably computer related
- Aggressive, hardworking & with pleasing personality
- With or without experience in Sales

TECHNICAL STAFFS
- 20-28 years old
- Graduate of a 4-year computer course preferably ECE or Computer Engineering
- Hardworking and with pleasing personality

Qualified applicants may call 578-9110 / 578-2458 or bring their resumé at 106 P. Cruz St., Mandaluyong City

---

WANTED

Full-time Corporate Lawyer with experience in dealing with Banks and also Civil and Criminal Litigation.
- Salary Range P35,000-P45,000/ month commensurate with experience
- Possible car plan
- Must be below 40 years old
- Male or Female

Please send your application letter with detailed resumé, transcript of records, 2 x 2 photo to:

2106 PS Bank Tower
Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City

*****WANTED IMMEDIATELY*****
ACCOUNTING CLERK

Qualifications:
- Female (single)
- 21-25 years old
- Accounting graduate
- Graduating students may apply

Send to: U.P. P.O. Box 15,
DILIMAN, QUEZON CITY

- comprehensive resumé
- records of grades
- 2x2 or 1 1/2 x 1 1/2 ID picture

Our office is located at San Juan

Urgently Required
For a fast-rising meat trading firm

Account Executives
Male/Female
21 to 30 years old
With sales experience,preferably in the same field

Van Salesmen
Male,23 to 35 years old
With experience in Metro Manila,Eastern Manila and Southern Luzon markets

Accounting Clerks/Admin Staff
21 to 28 years old
Female,Accounting graduate
Computer-literate

Applicants from Mandaluyong, Makati or San Juan preferred

Interested parties could send their resumes to:
P.O.Box 275 Greenhills Post Office
Or fax them to :(02)8505527
Or email them to:kentmnl@mozcom.com

A publisher of several widely circulated monthly trade magazines, based in Quezon City, is looking for:

ADVERTISING SALESMAN
- Graduate of any 4-year course from a reputable college/university
- Wide experience preferred but not required
- Able to communicate well, both oral and written

Qualified applicants may send in their comprehensive bio-data with recent photo indicating their desired compensation package to:

P.O. Box 1295, Manila

or apply in person at:

626 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City

RRP ayumo + Partners
ARCHITECTS

- **SECRETARY/RECEPTIONIST**
COLLEGE GRADUATE, PLEASING PERSONALITY
- **ADMINISTRATIVE ARCHITECT**
LICENSED ARCHITECT AT LEAST 3 YEARS WORKING EXPERIENCE, INTERESTED IN DOING FIELD WORK AND COORDINATION OF VARIOUS TRADES AND ENGINEERING WORKS, FAMILIAR WITH BID DOCUMENTS AND SPECIFICATIONS
- **DATA ENCODER**
COLLEGE GRADUATE AT LEAST 2 YEARS EXPERIENCE, PROFICIENT IN MICROSOFT WORD AND EXCEL

BRING: BIO DATA WITH 2" x 2" PICTURE, TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDS / DIPLOMA, SAMPLE OF WORK

APPLY PERSONALLY FROM 9:00 A.M. – 12:00 NN ONLY AT:
583 BONI SERRANO AVE.
CUBAO, QUEZON CITY

A Leading Eyewear Retail Company Urgently Needs

ACCOUNT SALES EXECUTIVE
- Male/Female, not more than 40 yrs. old
- Graduate of any 4 yr. course
- Minimum of 2-3 years of Sales experience in distribution to optical shops
- Proficient in English both oral & written
- Well organized, detail-minded
- Excellent Interpersonal & Communication Skills
- Offers fixed salary and commission

BOOKKEEPER
- Female, not more than 35 yrs. old
- College graduate in Accounting
- Proficient in English both oral & written
- Knowledge in computer and experience is a must

FEMALE SALES ASSOCIATES
- Must be Single
- Minimum height of 5'4"
- College Level or its equivalent
- With good communication skills
- Preferably with sales experience

Please submit your resumé at 508-E East Philippine Stock Exchange Center, Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City Fax: 636-3577

A FREE-TO-AIR TELEVISION NETWORK is looking for a

VIDEO EDITOR

that can operate the ff. software:
- Adobe Premiere 6.0 or latest
- Adobe Photoshop 6.0 or latest
- Graduate of Bachelors of Arts in Communication Arts Major in Film and Video
- One year experience as Video Editor is a must.

Please send application letter with detailed resumé, transcript of records, 2x2 photo to:

3/F Save-A-Lot Mall
2284 P. Tamo Extension
Makati City

GOT A PHONE?
EARN UP TO
P30,000 / MONTH

If you are:
M/F, 21-52 years old
College Graduate
Willing to undergo trainings

Call: 892-2818/817-8262 for interview schedules

CUSTOMER RELATIONS SPECIALIST
- Male/Female; Preferably Year 2004 graduating students
- Candidate must possess a Bachelor's/College Degree
- Must have a very pleasing personality and possess exceptional PR skills
- Can comfortably and effectively communicate in English (a MUST)
- Can speak the other dialects of the Philippines is an advantage

Interested applicants can mail their resumé with picture at:
FAREAST EXPRESS REMITTANCE INC.
Rm. 203 Richbelt Tower Condominium
17 Annapolis St., Greenhills, San Juan, M.M.
or you can email or fax it at:
job_fareastrem@yahoo.com
Fax No. 723-5100

Are you up for the challenge?

Global Sources leads the field in creating and facilitating global trade between buyers and suppliers. We provide worldwide trading partners with the right information, at the right time, in the right format.

Our winning team of 1,800 people worldwide is skilled, tech-savvy and thrives in a dynamic, cross-cultural environment. If this sounds like you, then we are currently looking for:

Copy Editor

To be part of a team editing and writing news and product reports, and putting together the print, CD-ROM and online versions of a high-tech trade magazine. You should be a degree holder, preferably in English/Journalism/Communications. You must have excellent spoken and written English language skills and be computer literate with knowledge of the Internet. Candidates with exposure to international trade and 1-2 years editorial/writing experience in electronics/computer industry would be at an advantage.

A competitive remuneration package and a truly challenging, international and dynamic work environment awaits the right candidate. Interested parties should send their resume and contact details to any of the following:

Corporate Human Resources
online: career.globalsources.com
e-mail: gshr@globalsources.com
fax: (632) 892-4087
post: P.O. Box 4597, MCPO, Makati City

globalsources
www.globalsources.com

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
JOBMarket ONLINE
VISIT US AT
www.jobmarketonline.com

TeleTech

Your Customer Management Partner

TeleTech, the leading provider in global customer care solutions for over 20 years is seeking exceptional Call Center Professionals for our Manila Call Center Operations. With global infrastructure support our operations service broad range of North American clients. The depth of the organization offers the right person the potential to learn, develop and advance their career.

Essential requirements for all roles include 4 year College Degree, Exceptional English Conversational skills and a willingness to work night shift.

OPERATIONS MANAGER
- Outstanding influencing skills
- PRO ACTIVE go-getter
- Able to operate independently and in consultation with senior management
- Outstanding leadership ability
- Extensive experience in coaching, performance management
- Proven ability to achieve organizational goals

TEAM LEADERS
- Must have minimum of one year experience in a Team Leader role
- Exceptional Leadership and coaching skills
- Proven ability to motivate teams

QUALITY ASSURANCE SUPERVISOR
- Min 1 year supervisory experience in a call center environment
- Exceptional program facilitation, coaching and feedback skills
- Good leadership skills· Experience in Training and Quality Assurance highly desirable

QUALITY ASSURANCE SPECIALISTS
- Minimum 6 months Call Center experience
- Outstanding attention to detail
- Exceptional Coaching and feedback skills
- Proven listening and Analytical skill

WORKFORCE PLANNING SPECIALISTS
- 6 months call center experience
- Analytical Skills with attention to detail
- Exceptional mathematical capabilities
- Microsoft Excel experience advantageous

Sr. CLIENT RELATIONSHIP MANAGER
- Exceptional communication skills within all levels of client organizations
- Ability to manage both external clients and internal teams
- Outstanding project management capabilities
- Proven experience working with a variety of clients
- Self-driven, strong attention to detail
- Sense of urgency is a must
- Minimum 5 years Account management and Client relationship experience
- Charismatic and dynamic leader

TRAINER - AMERICAN ACCENT AND CULTURE
- Previous Accent Neutralization Training experience essential
- Coaching and mentoring skills
- Exceptional presentation skills
- Ability to motivate trainees is a must
- Results-focused and a desire to help others succeed

TRAINERS
- Previous Training experience essential
- Exceptional presentation skills
- Ability to motivate trainees is a must
- Results focused and a desire to help others succeed
- Accent reduction training an advantage

TRAINING MANAGER
- Proven leadership experience within a customer-focused training environment
- Ability to manage a number of projects simultaneously
- Exceptional presentation skills
- Coaching and mentoring skills
- At least 3 years management experience

PAYROLL SPECIALIST
- Minimum 2 years experience in payroll preparation
- Analytical, Solutions Focused.
- Exceptional mathematical capabilities
- Working knowledge on payroll applications

PAYROLL SUPERVISOR
Essential Requirements include:
- Minimum four years experience in payroll preparation, two years of which in a supervisory role
- Analytical, solutions focused
- Exceptional mathematical capabilities
- Working knowledge on payroll applications

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
- Extensive experience in office procedure and administration
- Can work with very minimum supervision, flexible most especially with time schedule
- At least 5 years of experience dealing with Expatriates/Senior Executives in a multinational environment
- Proficiency with windows application – Excel, Word, Outlook and Powerpoint.
- Trustworthy, can handle confidential issues

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
- Experience with purchasing and inventory
- Experience with office administration
- Can work with minimum supervision
- Flexible with work schedule

PREVIOUS APPLICANTS NEED NOT RE-APPLY

We offer attractive remuneration and incentives commensurate with your experience. Kindly indicate in the envelope the position you are applying for and send your application to:

MS. VELDA SAULOG - Recruiting Manager
TeleTech Customer Care Management Philippines, Inc.
P.O. Box 1786 MCPO Makati City, Philippines

Or thru the following e-mail addresses:
1. Payroll Specialist and Supervisor - hrjobs@ph.teletech.com
2. Site Director - SITEDIRECTOR@ph.teletech.com
3. Executive and Administrative Assistant - hrjobs@ph.teletech.com
4. Operations Manager, Team Leader - OPSjobs@ph.teletech.com
5. Trainer Positions and Training Manager - trainerjobs@ph.teletech.com
6. Quality Assurance Specialists and Supervisor - QA_jobs@ph.teletech.com
7. Workforce Planning Specialists - OSCjobs@ph.teletech.com
8. Sr / Client Relationship Manager - CRMjobs@ph.teletech.com

TeleTech

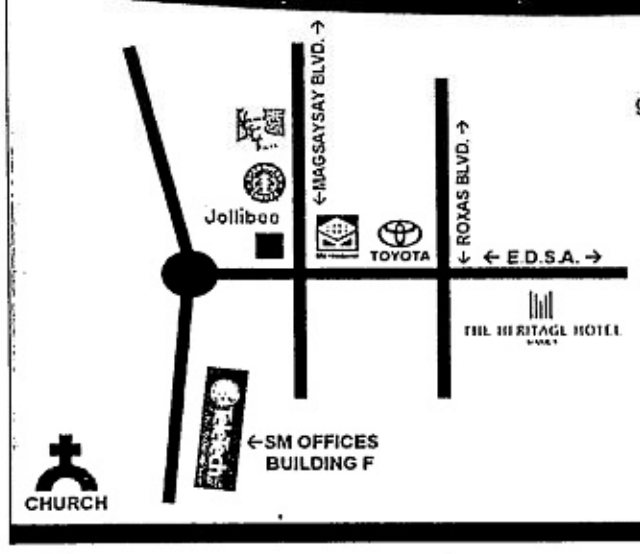
Your Customer Management Partner

Wants You!

We are looking for
Customer Service Representatives
to be part of our fast-growing team!

To be part of our growth call us at 552-9751 up to 55 Mondays to Fridays from 10am to 6pm

You may also send us your resume at OPSjobs@ph.teletech.com or visit us on site at Building F, SM Corporate Offices at Bay City.



TeleTech, the world leader in the provision of call center solutions is currently undergoing an exciting period of growth in our offices within the Philippines. We're currently on the look out for new talent to work in our world class call centers who have strong command of the English language, are customer service focused, are analytical and solutions focused, are knowledgeable on PC architecture and applications, have excellent reasoning ability, and are able to interpret an extensive variety of technical instructions and are able to deal with abstract and concrete variables. If you are keen to progress your career with a global company then we want to talk to you! Dealing with callers from all over the United States, you will use your technical support skills to assist customers with their queries. If you have these skills and are available to work night shift, then join us now!

visit us at www.teletech.com

HOLY ANGEL UNIVERSITY

Angeles City

A Catholic University Granted Full Autonomy By The CHED & with Re- accredited Level II by PAASCU

We are in need of teaching Professionals (for 1st semester SY 2004- 2005), who can be partners with our school's mission- vision in offering quality education.

FOR COLLEGE
- Filipino
- English
- Physical Education
- Management
- Math
- Nursing
- Science

FOR GRADE SCHOOL
- Science
- English

Qualifications:
- For college teaching, graduate degree in the field of specialization is preferred
- With good communication and interpersonal skills
- With teaching experience
- Must have love for teaching and research

Interested applicants may submit their letter of application, resumé, transcript of records to:

The Personnel Head
Holy Angel University
Sto. Rosario St., Angeles City 2009

Drop your resumés NOW!

JOB Market

Visit any of the Inquirer Classified Ads branch and drop your resumés in our new

Resumé Box

We gather your resumés and forward them to companies with employment needs.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

TeleTech

Your Customer Management Partner

TeleTech, the leading provider in global customer care solutions for over 20 years is seeking exceptional Call Center Professionals for our Manila Call Center Operations. With global infrastructure support our operations service broad range of North American clients. The depth of the organization offers the right person the potential to learn, develop and advance their career.

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- PRO ACTIVE go-getter
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- Must have minimum of one year experience in a Team Leader role
- Exceptional Leadership and coaching skills
- Proven ability to motivate teams

QUALITY ASSURANCE SUPERVISOR
- Min 1 year supervisory experience in a call center environment
- Exceptional program facilitation, coaching and feedback skills
- Good leadership skills· Experience in Training and Quality Assurance highly desirable

QUALITY ASSURANCE SPECIALISTS
- Minimum 6 months Call Center experience
- Outstanding attention to detail
- Exceptional Coaching and feedback skills
- Proven listening and Analytical skill

WORKFORCE PLANNING SPECIALISTS
- 6 months call center experience
- Analytical Skills with attention to detail
- Exceptional mathematical capabilities
- Microsoft Excel experience advantageous

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- Ability to manage a number of projects simultaneously
- Exceptional presentation skills
- Coaching and mentoring skills
- At least 3 years management experience

PAYROLL SPECIALIST
- Minimum 2 years experience in payroll preparation
- Analytical, Solutions focused.
- Exceptional mathematical capabilities
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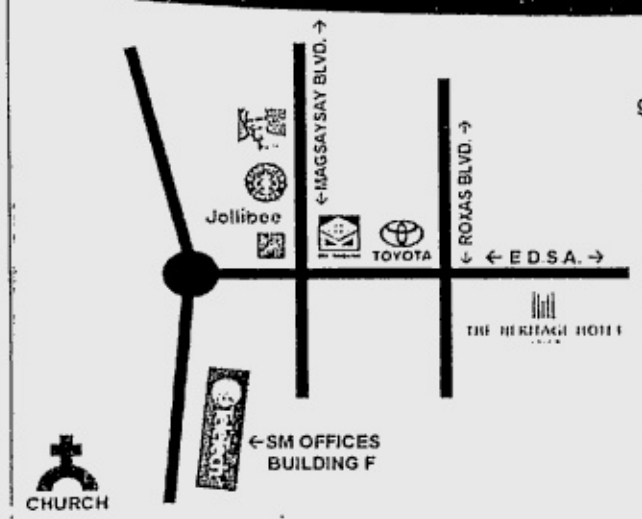

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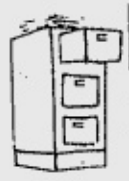

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sunday
GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE
INQUIRER
magazine

Rich Alvarez

Top Class

By Ruel S. De Vera
Photographs by Ernie U. Sarmiento

WHEN Richard "Rich" Alvarez was in his early teens and growing up in Guam, his father Rudy made him a bet. "Rich, if you can dunk the ball, I will give you $500," he told his athletic son, fully thinking that the young man didn't have the hops to do it. One day, Alvarez dragged Rudy to the gym nearby without saying why. Alvarez warmed up and said, "Dad, look." The young Alvarez then elevated for a resounding slam dunk as Rudy looked on in shock and awe. "So, I had to pay him in installments," Rudy says, laughing at the memory.

That would not be the last time the power-playing Alvarez proved people wrong. After a storied collegiate career with the Ateneo Blue Eagles, a Southeast Asian Games gold medal, and success in the Philippine Basketball League, the 6'4", 200-lb Alvarez, fulfilled a hoop dream when he was picked by the Shell Turbo Chargers as the top overall choice in the 2004 Philippine Basketball Association rookie draft. Yet for the 23-year-old Alvarez, it's still all about the game. "I just enjoy playing basketball," he says in his typical soft-spoken manner.

Two sides

Watching the chiseled Alvarez on the court is like monitoring an experiment in genetically modifying a player to man the front line. There he is, constantly moving like the world's most fearsome windup toy,

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The Youth Invasion
by June Navarro, p.3

In the Heart of NPA Country
By Joan Bondoc, p.

Blessings After the Bruises
by Yolanda S. Labro, p.6

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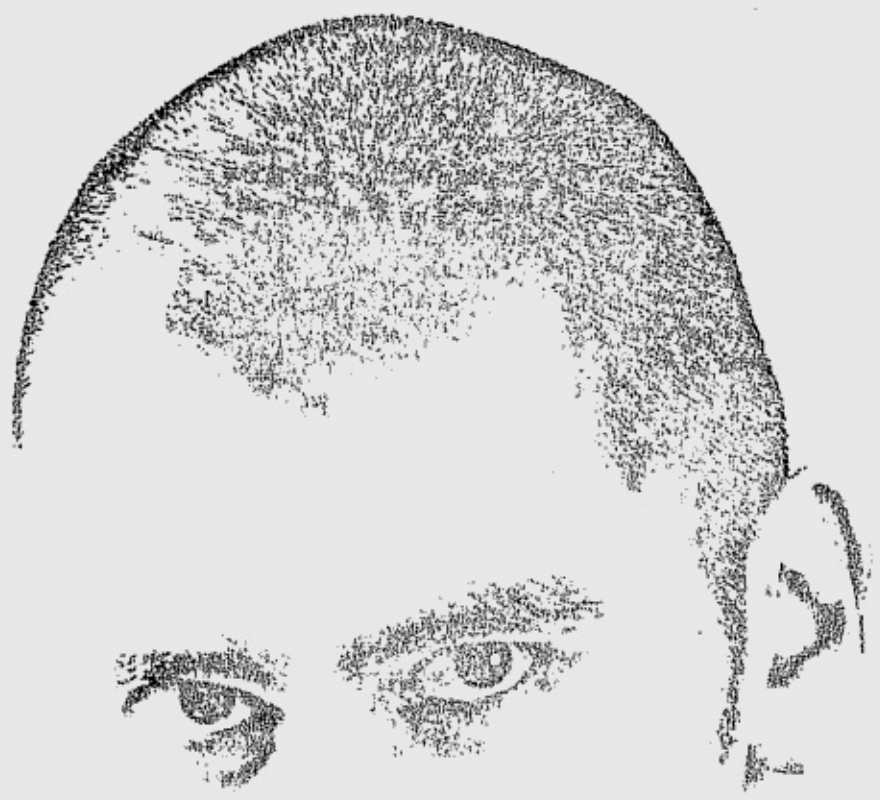
Sunday INQUIRER
GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE

Rich Alvarez



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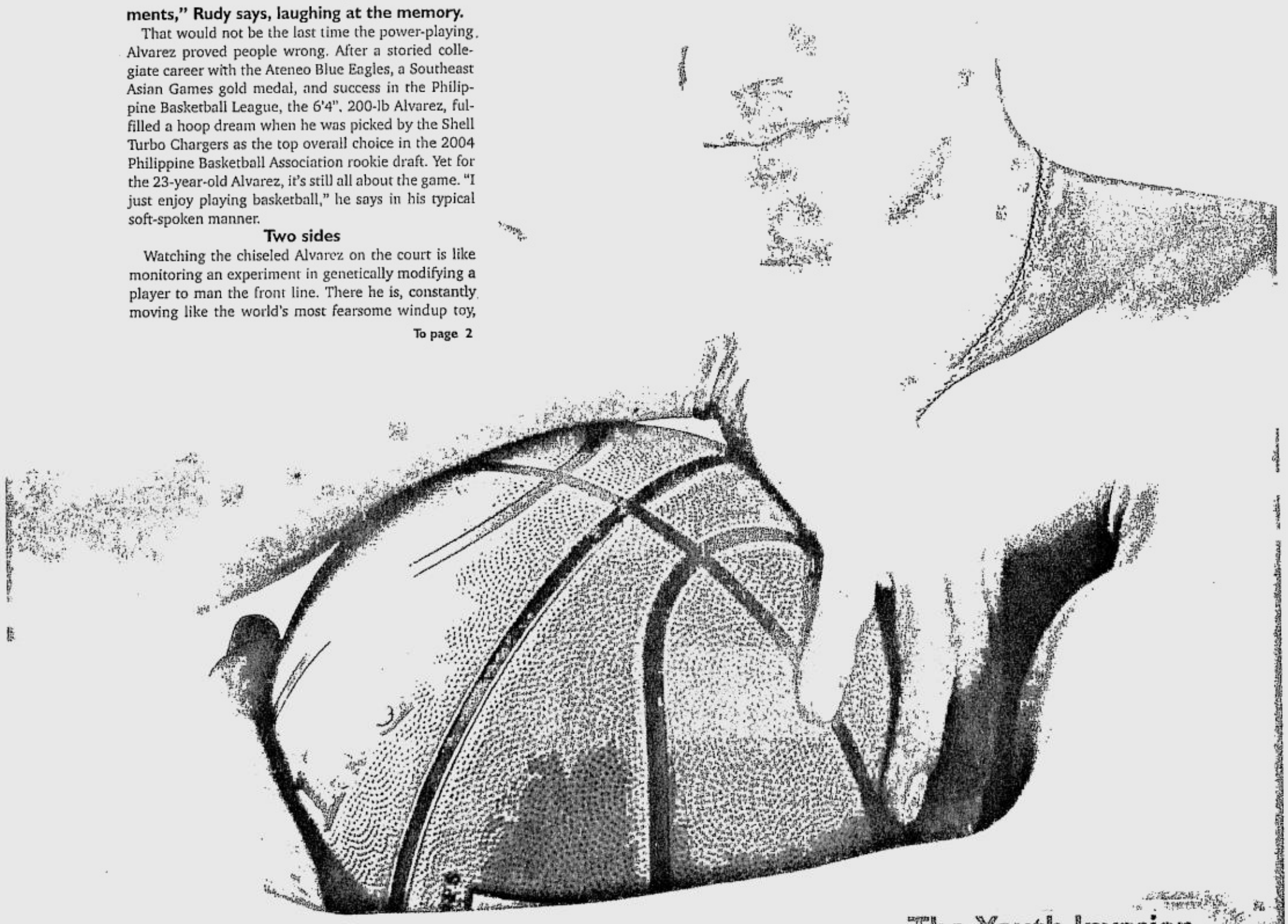

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NBA country
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Rondalla on Wheels

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And beat your stress.

Sunday Inquirer Magazine
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o mangingibig kayang lipos
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ni hindi ako tigasin na nagpapalipad
hangin o tingin

o kaya'y nagsasalawahang nais
magsulat at magbulatlat

ng damdamin, o kaya'y hangarin:
simple lamang ako

humahanga o tumataya
sa sugal na ito ng isip at puso

kaya'y libog o kutob
na walang mapapanalo

maliban sa pagpula, oo, kundi
tula

sa pag-aasta kong makulit, gayong
makulit nga talaga

nagmamakata o makati lang talaga
nagmamakati o makata nga, sana:

basta, basta, baka nga wala dito
sa lahat ng ito—sige na nga,

lalaki ako na nagmamahal
ng kapwa ko—oo, tao nga ako

Camilo M. Villanueva Jr.

Weather

I've written about this before. The icons
we keep in corners, ledges, shelves.
Our domesticated micro parks where we line up
little monuments to what we think is memory,
because we remember the source of the souvenir
but not the day, and who we were with but not
the hour, nor the rest of the sun or the rain.

They stand, sheltered, these curtseys to place
(more foreign than local, of course), and what
we believe is time, cheek by jowl because there
is no room for another episode of conversion.

They join together as ranks in an army
marching in situ—here, there, wherever
we have assigned an end to promenades—
as a fence, a wall to keep out long gaps
between the times and places we cannot
mark off with the little soapstone Tower
of Pisa, the Pis Manikin, the miniscule monk
or Buddha, the tin warrior or cute little dolmen
of Stonehenge. Sculpture fills our lives,
taking over many small areas the way sun or rain
takes to our fond umbrella of remembrances.

Alfred A. Yuson

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Rich ...from page 1

crashing through a crush of players to rip the ball away for a rebound. There he is, skying before ramming through the hoop with authority. There he is, ruthlessly and relentlessly dogging the opponent's best man on the other end, swatting that shot away with springs in his legs and fire in his eyes.

Yet, it's almost like there are two totally disparate sides to Alvarez. Off the court, he is a quiet, reserved, painfully shy person who is famously well-behaved, according to those around him. When he talks about himself, he seems genuinely embarrassed. His parents and Santos both attest to his impeccable behavior. But on the court, he is a passionate performer who plays all out. "I need to talk a lot to play. It's a team game," he says matter-of-factly. All that emotion shows up on the court as he picks up floorburns diving for loose balls, intensity stamped all over his face. "I guess that's where it all goes," he says sheepishly. He gets surprised when he watches his games and sees how emotional he gets.

That zeal will be on display today as Alvarez makes his anticipated pro debut against the Barangay Ginebra Gin Kings as the PBA's 30th season kicks off. When he does, it will be the latest stop in a basketball odyssey, the story of a young man leaping over continents and back again, in pursuit of that most elusive of goals. "I'm just a simple guy, I try not to complicate my life. I don't want to think about money. I just want to win," he says. It is an odyssey that begins with a father passing on the love for the game to his young son.

It would be easy to assume that Alvarez got at least some of his gifted hoops genes from his father. Rudy was a 6'0" guard/forward who played briefly for San Sebastian College and Far Eastern University in the 1970s before signing up with the United States Navy. Assigned to Japan, then-Chief Petty Officer Rudy and his first wife Violeta Datu had three children. Rich, the youngest of the three, was born in Yokosuka on October 30, 1980.

When Alvarez was 5, the family moved to the US when Rudy was assigned to San Francisco. After Rudy and Violeta divorced, Rudy kept custody of his youngest son and later married Marivic Ordiales, a Filipino nurse in the Bay Area. It was with Rudy and Marivic that Alvarez grew up and traveled, as Rudy was assigned to Guam before returning once again to Japan.

As expected, Alvarez was a quiet child. "I never had a single problem with him growing up," Rudy remembers. Alvarez's days were filled with basketball and videogames. It was Rudy who introduced Alvarez to the game, a conscious decision on Rudy's part. Alvarez first played competitive ball at Dan O. Root II Elementary School, quickly gaining speed, agility and leaping ability. The two played in their garage almost every day as Rudy instilled the basics into his son. "He would give me tips, show me how to do this move or that move," Alvarez says. When Alvarez was studying at Grange Middle School, he badgered his father to come watch him play. Rudy finally relented, thinking that his son would not see much action. To his surprise, Rudy got to the game and discovered his son was the starting point guard for Grange. "I began freshman year in high school at 5'7" and went to 6'1" in

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Camilo M. Villanueva Jr.

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little monuments to what we think is memory,
because we remember the source of the souvenir
but not the day, and who we were with but not
the hour, nor the rest of the sun or the rain.

They stand, sheltered, these curtseys to place
(more foreign than local, of course), and what
we believe is time, cheek by jowl because there
is no room for another episode of conversion.

They join together as ranks in an army
marching in situ—here, there, wherever
we have assigned an end to promenades—
as a fence, a wall to keep out long gaps
between the times and places we cannot
mark off with the little soapstone Tower
of Pisa, the Pis Manikin, the miniscule monk
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The **Sunday Inquirer Magazine** accepts contributions for our regular poetry section. Interested contributors should send a printed copy of the poem (which may be in English or Filipino) together with a self-addressed stamped envelope to Ruel S. De Vera, poetry editor, Sunday Inquirer Magazine, Chino Roces (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Mascardo and Yague Streets, Makati City 1263, or e-mail to <poetry_sim@inquirer.com.ph>

Rich ...from page 1

crashing through a crush of players to rip the ball away for a rebound. There he is, skying before ramming through the hoop with authority. There he is, ruthlessly and relentlessly dogging the opponent's best man on the other end, swatting that shot away with springs in his legs and fire in his eyes.

Yet, it's almost like there are two totally disparate sides to Alvarez. Off the court, he is a quiet, reserved, painfully shy person who is famously well-behaved, according to those around him. When he talks about himself, he seems genuinely embarrassed. His parents and Santos both attest to his impeccable behavior. But on the court, he is a passionate performer who plays all out. "I need to talk a lot to play. It's a team game," he says matter-of-factly. All that emotion shows up on the court as he picks up floorburns diving for loose balls, intensity stamped all over his face. "I guess that's where it all goes," he says sheepishly. He gets surprised when he watches his games and sees how emotional he gets.

That zeal will be on display today as Alvarez makes his anticipated pro debut against the Barangay Ginebra Gin Kings as the PBA's 30th season kicks off. When he does, it will be the latest stop in a basketball odyssey, the story of a young man leaping over continents and back again, in pursuit of that most elusive of goals. "I'm just a simple guy, I try not to complicate my life. I don't want to think about money. I just want to win," he says. It is an odyssey that begins with a father passing on the love for the game to his young son.

It would be easy to assume that Alvarez got at least some of his gifted hoops genes from his father. Rudy was a 6'0" guard/forward who played briefly for San Sebastian College and Far Eastern University in the 1970s before signing up with the United States Navy. Assigned to Japan, then-Chief Petty Officer Rudy and his first wife Violeta Datu had three children. Rich, the youngest of the three, was born in Yokosuka on October 30, 1980.

When Alvarez was 5, the family moved to the US when Rudy was assigned to San Francisco. After Rudy and Violeta divorced, Rudy kept custody of his youngest son and later married Marivic Ordiales, a Filipino nurse in the Bay Area. It was with Rudy and Marivic that Alvarez grew up and traveled, as Rudy was assigned to Guam before returning once again to Japan.

As expected, Alvarez was a quiet child. "I never had a single problem with him growing up," Rudy remembers. Alvarez's days were filled with basketball and videogames. It was Rudy who introduced Alvarez to the game, a conscious decision on Rudy's part. Alvarez first played competitive ball at Dan O. Root II Elementary School, quickly gaining speed, agility and leaping ability. The two played in their garage almost every day as Rudy instilled the basics into his son. "He would give me tips, show me how to do this move or that move," Alvarez says. When Alvarez was studying at Grange Middle School, he badgered his father to come watch him play. Rudy finally relented, thinking that his son would not see much action. To his surprise, Rudy got to the game and discovered his son was the starting point guard for Grange. "I began freshman year in high school at 5'7" and went to 6'1" in

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Rich ...from page 2

the same year," he remembers. "All of the sudden, my clothes were shrinking." Alvarez continued on his basketball journey, moving to Fairfield High before deplaning for Ocean View High in Guam, before finishing his high school career at Nile C. Kinnick High in Japan. Living on a military base, Alvarez stuck to basketball and working out, often playing with older, more physically imposing opponents, particularly during his high school years in Japan. "There's nothing much to do there, so it was just basketball and working out."

Ateneo calling

It was when Alvarez was starring at Kinnick High that he first caught the attention of the Blue Eagles. While scouting for blue-chip recruits for the Ateneo's basketball program, businessman Arben Santos, a devoted Ateneo supporter, got word of a Filipino kid named Alvarez playing in the Bay Area during the summer in late 1998. But the contact number Santos received was in Japan. Santos, who visits Japan regularly, got in touch with Rudy upon arriving in the country. Santos met up with the Alvarezes and asked them to give Ateneo a look. Upon viewing a tape of Alvarez Santos says, "I was amazed. Here was this guy playing like a one-man wrecking crew. We had to go after this guy."

Even though Alvarez got letters from some US schools, Rudy suggested that he try playing in the Philippines, even for one year. "My dad inspired me to try it out," Alvarez says. Alvarez heard about the Ateneo from visiting Filipino cagers he faced in inter-school meets and he says that was when he became enamored with the idea.

A week after meeting with Santos and the day after Alvarez graduated from high school, father and son flew to the Philippines. Soon after, Alvarez made the fateful decision: He would don the Blue Eagles' storied blue jersey in the 1999 UAAP season. Alvarez would stay with Santos in the businessman's Urdaneta Village home as Santos also kept a watchful eye on the young talent.

For Alvarez, the challenges of college went beyond just sports. "My first year was hard," Alvarez says. Being away from his family, he called home often. He studied a lot in the library and tried to keep his grades up. "I just wanted to fit in." His first year in the UAAP was "an eye-opener," he says. Raw but already remarkable, Alvarez played a key role in steadily improving Ateneo's fortunes. In his second year, playing alongside friends like Enrico Villanueva and Wesley Gonzales, he began thinking of hardcourt success. "I thought, just once, I'd like to win a championship." That year, he won his first MVP award and would win it again the year after. But it would be in Rich's fourth year that he would taste that championship feeling, finally winning the cage crown after a 13-year drought in 2002. That joy also came with valuable lessons. "The hardest thing was learning how to win a championship, learning how to win under pressure," he explains.

Yet that was only the beginning for Alvarez. After playing out the string with the Blue Eagles, he was a headliner with the Philippine team that took the gold in the Vietnam SEA Games last year. And Alvarez won honors and championships in the PBL, helping Fash Liquid Detergent to the Platinum Cup mere weeks before the PBA opened. "I always thought that, if he came to the Philippines, he would make waves," Rudy says. "Lo and behold."

In October, Alvarez finally earned his AB Interdisciplinary Studies degree and, as per his agreement with Santos and Rudy, was free to finally apply for the pros. Though he had always wanted to play pro ball, Alvarez said he only seriously considered it when Villanueva was drafted by Red Bull in last year's draft. Though Alvarez had worked out for a number of teams, they had heard very little from Shell, which held the top pick. In the midst of a major rebuilding after skidding in the PBA, Shell had many needs and was rumored to be going for University of the East scoring machine James Yap or perhaps Welcoat forward Marc Pingris aside from Alvarez. When Shell traded regulars Dale Singson and Eddie Laure for Purefoods strongman Billy Mamaril prior to the draft, it paved the way for Shell to pick Alvarez first overall.

But Alvarez still had no idea what was about to happen. The night before the draft, Alvarez and Rudy could not get any sleep. "I was just numb," he says. "I didn't know where I was going to go. I had nightmares of not being picked at all." At the 2004 PBA Draft at the Glorietta last January 16, Alvarez was understandably all nerves as he sat next to Gonzales in the room reserved for the applicants, all waiting for their names to be called. When PBA Commissioner Noli Eala read out that Shell was picking candidate number two, Alvarez didn't react. "Even when they said my name, I still wasn't sure and I didn't want to stand up," he remembers. It was then that Gonzales turned to him and exclaimed, "Rich, it's you." It was only then that he knew it was happening for real. As far as Alvarez was concerned, the high point of his career was simply being picked in the PBA draft. "It's a dream come true," he told reporters on draft night. "Now I'm finally here in the PBA, I have to work harder."

The very next week, Alvarez signed a P10.65 million three-and-a-half year deal with Shell. "It's a max-max contract," says Santos, who is the pointman of a committee that manages Alvarez and fellow Ateneo alumni Villanueva, Gonzales and Gec Chia. Alvarez dreamed of a big contract but was still impressed by the pact he landed with Shell. "It was pretty great. I was like 'Whoa,'" he says with a laugh. But there will be no extravagant expenditures for the top pick as Santos will help Alvarez manage the money. "I'm just looking towards the future," Alvarez says simply. "I'm *kuripot*."

Tapsilog and computer games

Marivic says that Alvarez possesses a prodigious appetite, with *tapsilog* and Japanese dishes being among his favorites. Alvarez is now living in the family's house in Makati with Rudy, who retired from the Navy two years ago, Marivic and younger brother Michael, 4. Away from the game, Alvarez remains a dedicated video game fanatic, wearing out his Sony Playstation 2 and XBox, identifying the different incarnations of "NBA Live" and "Final Fantasy" as his favorites. A self-admitted gadget freak, Alvarez loves electronics and is enjoying his newest prize, a portable DVD player. "And I love cellphones," Alvarez says with a grin. He enjoys watching movies or hangs out

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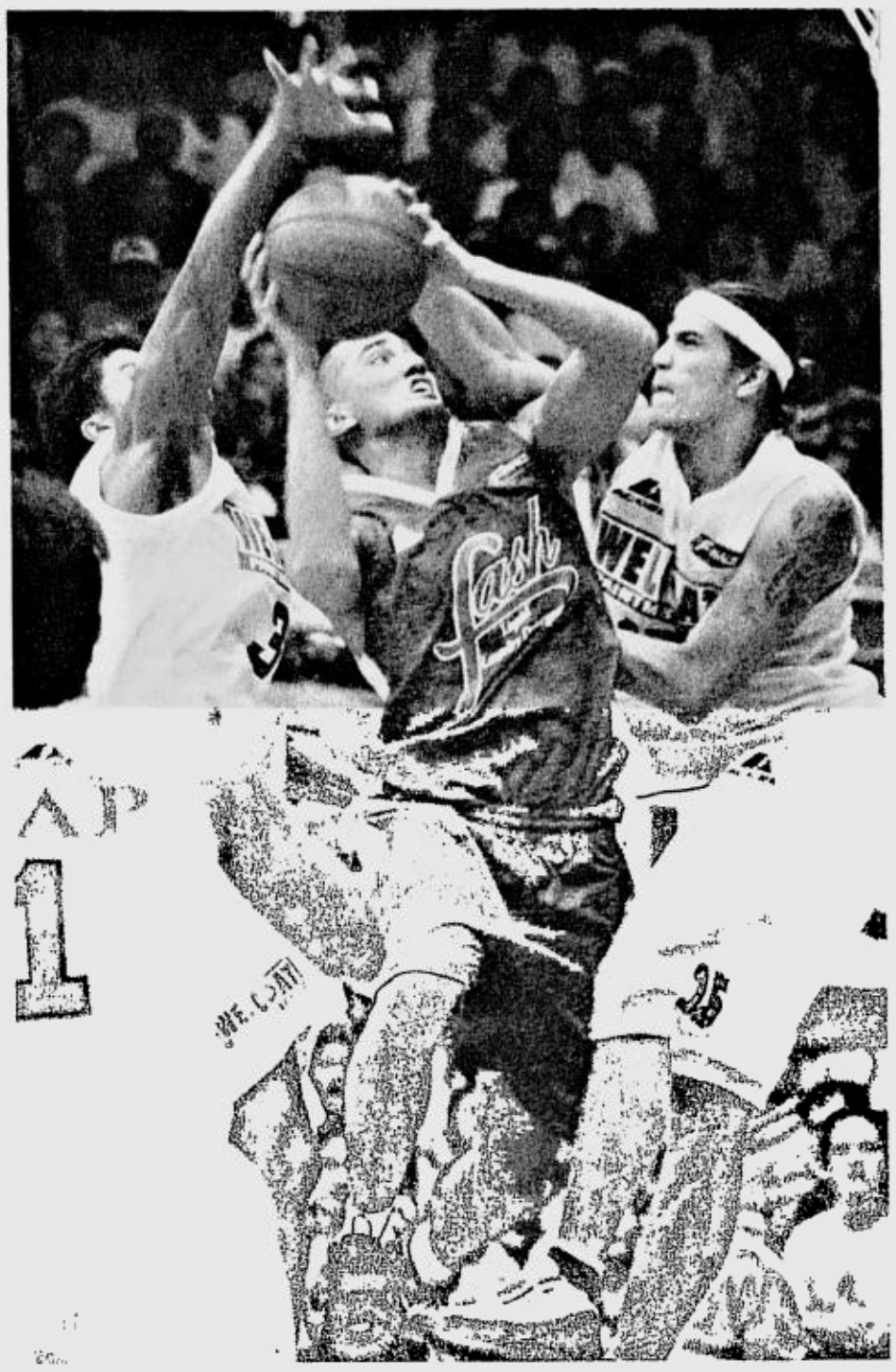


Alvarez is eager to bring his power game to the pro league

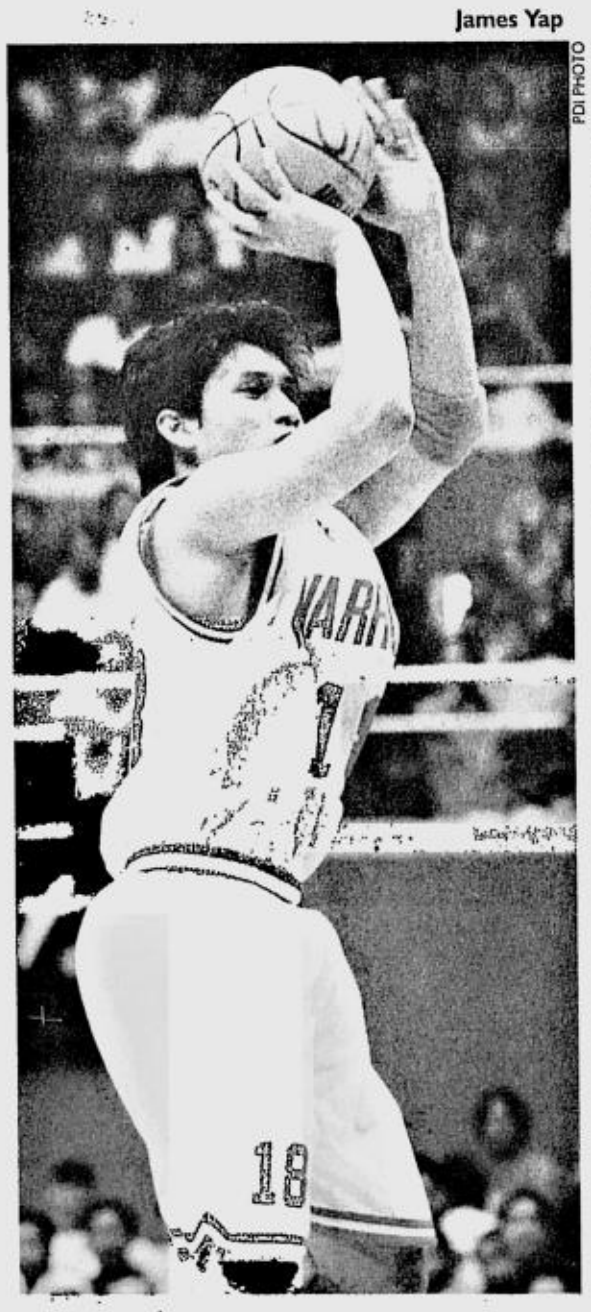
Family matters: Rich with (L-R) Marivic, Michael and Rudy

All-Star Game

By June Navarro

A talented crop of rookies is about to make a splash in the PBA

The Youth Invasion



James Yap

PDI PHOTO

They are a fascinating mix of young men, all linked by their burning wish to play at the top level of basketball in the country. Regardless of their different origins and destinations, they are all linked as the hopeful newcomers to the PBA after the 2004 annual draft. Meet the rookies:

James Yap

The 2003 UAAP MVP from the University of the East got the longest contract and biggest paycheck from among the PBA rookies. Selected second overall by the Purefoods TJ Hotdogs in the draft, Yap was signed to an P11-million pact spread over three years and nine months. "But it's not really about the money, it's about playing for my favorite team," says the 23-year-old Yap, a self-confessed Purefoods fan.

Jean-Marc Pingris

A son of a fruit vendor from Alaminos, Pangasinan, this Filipino-French cager will become as rich as Rich Alvarez after landing third overall in the rookie selection courtesy of the FedEx Express. Including bonuses, the 6' 6" Alaminos, Pangasinan dribbler secured a pact from the Express similar to Alvarez's P10.65-million deal with the TurboChargers over three-and-a-half years. "My mother can now stop selling fruits in the market and just sit back and relax," says Pingris.

Ranidel De Ocampo

Lurking in the shadows of his elder sibling Yancy, this De Ocampo has a lot to prove when he takes over the spot vacated by his brother at the FedEx Express.

PDI PHOTO

Jean-Marc Pingris

The Express shipped Yancy to the Talk 'N' Text Phone Pals, creating enough elbow room for the Bert Lina-owned ballclub to accommodate the P9.8-million, three-and-a-half-year contract of this year's fourth overall pick. "His (Yancy's) shoes are too big to fill. I just have to work on my game and prove to FedEx that they didn't make a mistake in picking me in the draft," says De Ocampo.

Joachim Thoss

This 6'7" Filipino-German has grand plans of hitting it big in US-based leagues, especially the National Basketball Association. His dream, however, remains a dream if the Alaska rookie fails to prove his P5.4 million-peso worth for the Aces in two-and-a-half years. "It's gonna be tough. But I will exhaust all my efforts just to

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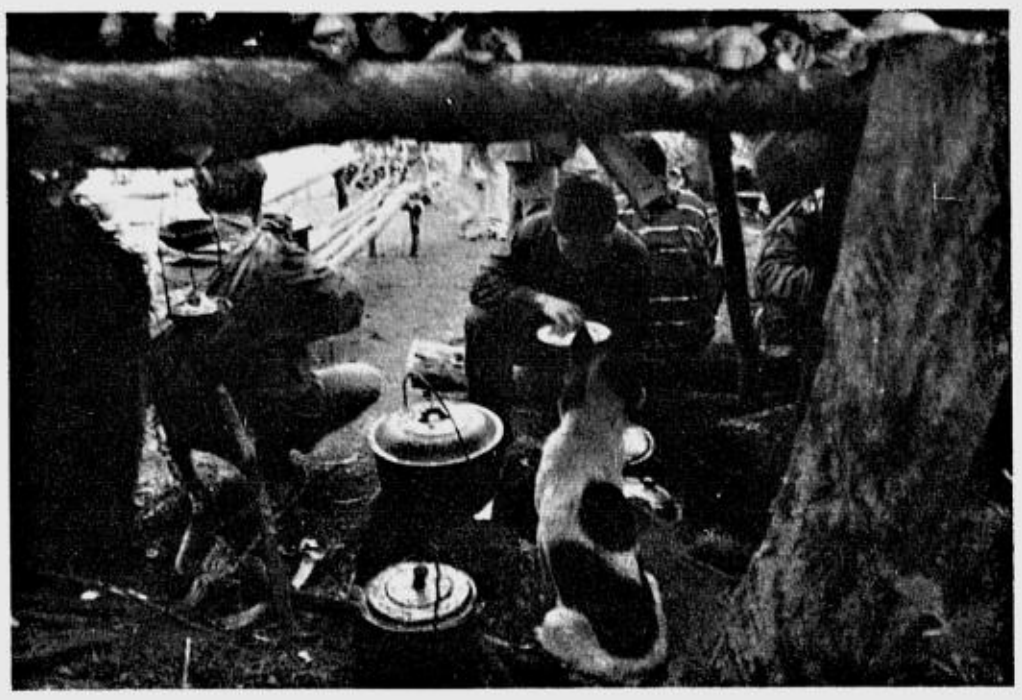
All Access

Text and photographs by Joan Bondoc

In the Heart of NPA Country

The majestic Cordilleras are an ironically idyllic setting for a visit with Ka Roger and his cadres



Day one, 2:35 p.m.:The NPA troopers grab a bite at their Cordeillera camp

Day one, 8:20 p.m.: **CCP-NPA Spokesman *Ka* Roger greets the arriving journalists**

Day one, 9:45 p.m.: **Revolutionary music fills the air as the NPAs sing into the night**

TODAY, long before dawn, we set out on a journey that would take us across rivers and mountains to a totally different world. "Past Bicol," says *Ka* Larry, our guide.

Hours later, we make it to Baguio where, we are told, no cameras should be exposed. A few more kilometers and we're in the depths of the Cordillera mountains. It's a daunting prospect, and we pray that we stay clear of military encounters as stray bullets do not respect media IDs.

After a very long and tiring walk, two young men welcome us warmly and offer to carry our stuff. I surrender my pack gratefully.

A few more minutes and we find ourselves in a base camp of the CPP-NPA. People are cooking and carrying gallons of water—the usual routine in a busy household. They stop to acknowledge us one by one, and we stop in our tracks when we see a familiar smiling face. In a Mao cap, a Che Guevarra T-shirt and a fatigue jacket, the man is unmistakably *Ka* Roger.

He extends his hand almost immediately. "*Kamusta na? Nahirapan ba kayo? Magpahinga na muna kayo at bukas pa ang* presscon (Better get rested. The press con's not until tomorrow)."

As reporters scramble to get their interviews, we are asked to shield the NPAs' faces and keep their identity anonymous. Every now and then, they stop to look at my camera's viewfinder.

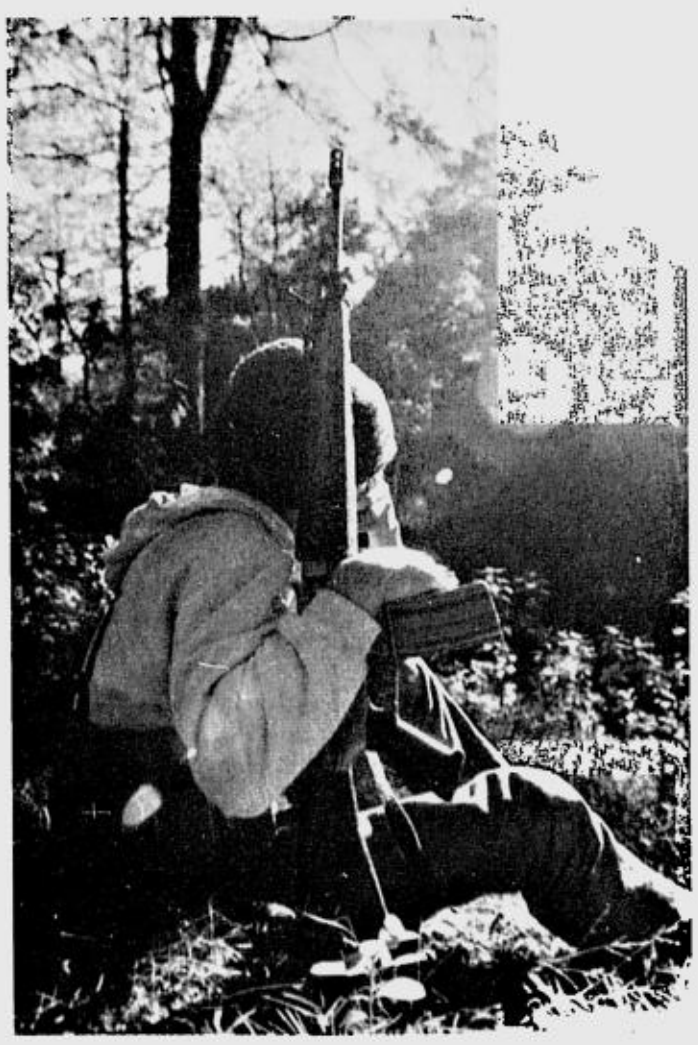
I sleep with three other women in a small improvised hut with no walls. I wake up the next morning to the sound of footsteps as the leftist rebels start their day with exercise.

After breakfast, we gather around *Ka* Roger as he sits before his laptop, typing out the statement he would read later at the press conference.

We start packing up after lunch, but before we go, we get an unexpected farewell gift: *Ka* Roger takes out his harmonica and plays. He leaves shortly after. We bid our escorts goodbye, look at the stiff mountains around, and sigh at the prospect of another tough hike before us. Q

Day two, 7:10 a.m.:**The rebels start the day with a flurry of exercise**

Day two, 9:20 a.m.: ***Ka* Roger holds court at the press conference**



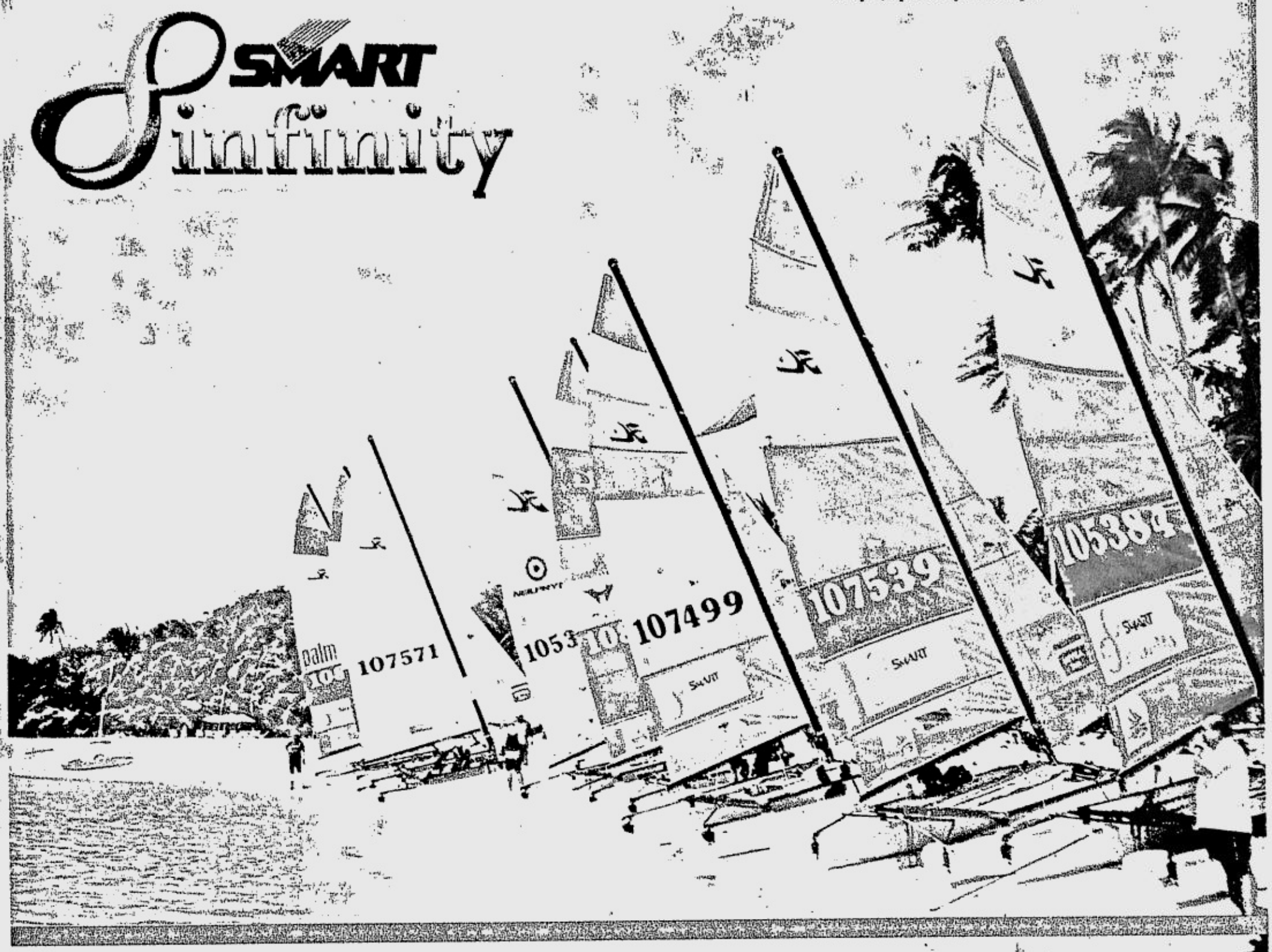
Day two, 11:40 a.m.: **A lone soldier keeps lonely vigil**

Day two, 7:10 p.m.- ***Ka* Roger breaks out the harmonica for a few tunes before bidding the visitors farewell**

The 5th Annual Philippine Hobie Challenge

Story and photos by Mike Lopez

SMART Pinfinity



Sand, Sail, and Sea, All the Way to Infinity

The sun gleams off the crystal clear waters, as your Hobie Cat catamaran slices through the waves. Man masters the wind and the current with instinct and training, balancing the boat with teamwork's trust. Clouds are read to pick the changes in wind, anticipating the elements to your advantage, and harnessing its power and unpredictability to victory. To be in perfect tune with your team mate, your boat, and nature's basic elements is what drives Hobie Cat enthusiasts. The sun on your face, the wind at your back, and the water as your path to serenity.

SMART Infinity helped bring racers from six nations to the 5th Annual Philippine Hobie Cat Challenge to compete for mastery of the archipelago's waters. The first two legs of the week long race started out in Boracay, with multicolored Hobie Cat sails back dropping the powder sands of the legendary beach. The two back-to-back inshore regatta on February 1st and the SMART Link leg from Boracay to Sibay Island on February 2nd was taken by perennial favorites, Team Australia's Aaron Woral & Sean Sibolo.

There is always camaraderie in the midst of competition from the tight knit group of Hobie Cat racers. Although the winners of the first leg, Team Australia were the last to shore as they assisted the sunken Team Bayani. Consideration was made for various teams that had helped their fellow competitors out of the water throughout the week-long event, many who stopped in the midst of the race to rescue the fallen. It is after all, the competitors that bring out the best in the winners, and helping fellow man that brings out the best in man.

Of the competitors that entered, most were not expecting to win. It was a time to be with others who share the same passion. It is a sport marked by the strength of a team, the beauty of the ocean, the struggle to master the elements that are intrinsically beyond man's control. To do all that and smile at the end of the day, with a pat on your back from those you have defeated, or those who have defeated you, and raise a glass in friendship and accomplishment of being part of such a grand experience. SMART Infinity is proud to be part of the Philippine Hobie Challenge and the other grand experiences that make up life's best.

Host JB Dimayuga & Jackie Castillejo.

Overall winners Aaron Woral and Sean Sibolo and fellow competitor.

Competitors from around the world party on the eve of the opening race.

SMART Pinfinity

PHILIPPINE HOBIE CHALLENGE

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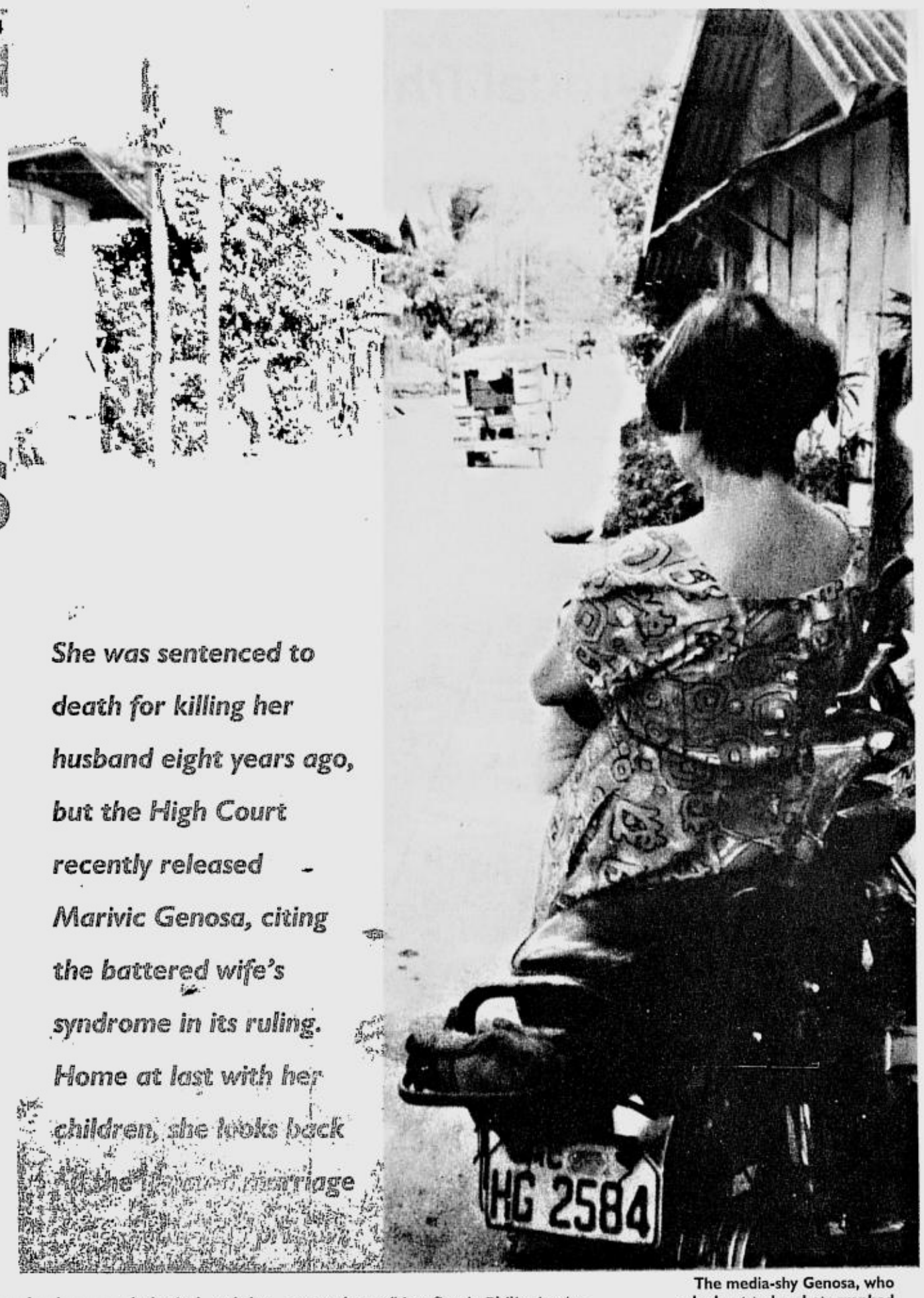
Survivors' Tales

Text and photograph by Vicente S. Labro PDI Visayas Bureau

Blessings After the Bruises



She was sentenced to death for killing her husband eight years ago, but the High Court recently released Marivic Genosa, citing the battered wife's syndrome in its ruling. Home at last with her children, she looks back at the [illegible] marriage

The media-shy Genosa, who asked not to be photographed for publication, looks forward to a better life

THE sight was so common at Ormoc's city plaza that nobody took a second glance at the mother, her young daughter and two sons taking a stroll at the seaside park that Sunday afternoon.

But unknown to many, it was the first time in more than six years that the group had enjoyed time together. Earlier that afternoon, mother and children had gone to church and then to an ice cream parlor to celebrate their reunion.

The woman, Marivic Isidro Genosa, had just arrived that Sunday from Manila where she had spent six years behind bars for killing her husband, Ben, the father of her children.

Marivic, 44, made local history by becoming the first death convict spared by the Supreme Court from lethal injection on the grounds that she was suffering from the "battered woman syndrome," when she bludgeoned her husband to death in November 1995. The high court, who reduced her sentence to six to 14 years in prison, also ordered Marivic released because she had already served more than six years of her prison term. Released from the Bureau of Corrections on Feb. 11, Marivic finally came home to Leyte a day after Valentine's.

Now sporting a trendy cropped hairstyle, Marivic could not stop smiling even as she declined to talk about the last eight years of her life. Right now, she says, her only concern is getting reconnected with her sons and daughter. She'd like nothing better than to be left alone by the media, Marivic adds, so she can start her life all over again for the sake of her growing children.

Hysterical

It was a different Marivic people saw that Sunday at the park, a far cry from the woman who became hysterical and had to be restrained by two policemen when the local court sentenced her to death on Sept. 25, 1998.

Ormoc Regional Trial Court Judge Fortunito Madrona had meted out the death penalty to Marivic for killing her husband "in cold blood," and set aside the testimonies of witnesses who described her as a battered wife. One vital witness was Dr. Dino Caing, a company physician at the Philippine Phosphate and Fertilizer Corp. (Philphos) in Isabel, Leyte where Marivic had worked. Caing testified in court that Marivic had consulted him six times previously for domestic violence-related injuries and 23 times for severe hypertension due to emotional stress.

Interviewed by the INQUIRER hours after she was meted the death sentence in 1998, Marivic had said, "It was only a matter of who got killed first." After every fight with Ben, she added, she had felt that her husband "was killing me softly."

Indeed, it was a sad ending to the love story of Marivic and Ben, who grew up together and were even known in their neighborhood as childhood sweethearts. Marivic, a love child of a government prosecutor, grew up with her mother, Marcelina. But being raised by a single parent did not prevent the young Marivic from being an honor student in her elementary grades in her mother's hometown, Isabel, located some 46 km from Ormoc City. She was also an active student during her high school days at the St. Peter's College in the city. Aside from excelling in academics, Marivic was a regular *reyna* (queen) in the town Santacruzan, and became a fiesta queen in Ormoc when she was in high school.

Sent to Cebu City for her college education, Marivic finished commerce, major in management, at the University of San Carlos. Shortly after, she found work at a construction firm in her hometown. But her ambition was to find a job abroad, says her mother, now 64. They had relatives in the United States, but the processing of Marivic's travel papers took so long that her plans did not materialize. Instead, she found a job as secretary at the fertilizer company Philphos in Isabel.

It was while working in Isabel in 1983 that Marivic again met Ben Genosa, a childhood friend she lost touch with when she went to Cebu for college. Ben was then working for another big firm in Leyte. Before the year ended, Marivic and Ben were married and settled in Barangay Bilwang, a village near the town proper. Four years later, they had their first son. Another son was born two years after.

But the marriage turned rocky as the couple bickered over Ben's drinking habit, among other vices. Neighbors and co-workers attested that the Genosas' frequent quarrels often turned physical, and that one or both of them often got hurt. Aside from Dr. Caing's testimony, Marivic's coworkers attested that she often had to wear dark sunglasses to hide a black eye after a domestic fight.

Drunken stupor

Things turned out for the worse. On the evening of Nov. 15, 1995, Marivic bashed her husband's head with a steel pipe while he lay in a drunken stupor inside their bedroom.

His decomposing body was discovered on Nov. 18 when alarmed neighbors investigated the foul smell coming from the couple's house.

Marivic, then eight months pregnant, and her two young sons were nowhere to be found. One neighbor recalled that on the morning of Nov. 16, she had seen Marivic and her children leaving the house. Marivic, she added, had told her that she was going to Cebu for a medical checkup.

By the time Ben's body was discovered, Marivic was already in San Pedro, Laguna where she later gave birth to her third child. She took on the alias "Marvelous Isidro" and worked as a researcher for a company there.

It was after she had enrolled a son at the local elementary school there that her identity was discovered because of the child's old boy scout registration. Marivic was arrested in September 1997 and brought back to Leyte to stand trial for parricide charges. She pleaded self-defense.

It was in September 2000, two years after she was meted the death penalty, that Marivic, then languishing at the Bureau of Corrections in Muntinlupa, was given fresh hope. In a resolution penned by Supreme Court Justice Artemio Panganiban on Sept. 29, 2000, the High Tribunal instructed the lower court to receive "expert psychological and/or psychiatric opinion" on the "battered woman syndrome." Panganiban declared that the SC was "convinced that the syndrome deserves serious consideration, especially in the light of its possible effect on (Marivic's) very life. It could be that very thin line between death and life or even acquittal."

A "novel" defense, the "battered woman syndrome," is a first in Philippine jurisprudence. It was raised by women's rights lawyer Katrina Legarda, who volunteered her services to Marivic early in 1999 and filed an urgent omnibus motion to the SC to appeal Genosa's case. Legarda appealed to the SC to allow a partial reopening of the case and "submit (Marivic) for examination by qualified psychologists and psychiatrists... to determine her state of mind at the time of the killing" as she could have been suffering from the "battered woman syndrome."

While Marivic had admitted to killing her husband while he was sleeping, Legarda said Marivic could have committed the crime "out of self-defense" because "if a woman waits to defend herself in a physical confrontation, she is likely to be hurt or killed."

Added Legarda, "The battered woman should not have to be on the verge of death before her right to protect herself is triggered. A battered woman lives in constant imminent danger of harm or death. A definition of 'imminent' must be realistically applied to a battered woman's situation."

"Imminent" danger

In her urgent omnibus motion, Legarda argued that "danger can be imminent without being immediate. A battered woman knows that danger is imminent even though she is not currently being beaten." Legarda noted that "an abusive husband is a bomb waiting to explode. The fuse is lit, the clock is ticking. The victim should be able to disarm the bomb before it actually explodes."

Iluminada Genosa, Ben's mother, did not raise any objection to the partial reopening of the case. In an interview with the INQUIRER in October 2000, Mrs. Genosa said that while she believed that Marivic should be made to pay for her crime, she had already forgiven her daughter-in-law and had even prayed for the salvation of her soul. Marivic's in-laws took charge of her two young sons, while her daughter was put under her maternal grandmother's care while Marivic was in jail. Once a year, her three children would visit Marivic. It was only these visits that made her happy, says Marivic. All her years in prison, she recounts, she was never made to feel anything except that she was a horrible person and a husband killer.

Still, she never gave up hope that people would eventually listen to her side of the story. She wrote letters to human right groups, even to President Joseph Estrada and later to President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, to explain what she went through as a battered wife that drove her to kill her husband, as she appealed for clemency. Nothing came out of her appeal to the two presidents.

But last month, just when she was about to give up hope, the decision of the Supreme Court came. Marivic pinched herself in disbelief. "Is this for real?" she kept asking herself. When it finally dawned on her that she would really be freed, Marivic recalls that she cried hard, harder than when she was meted the death penalty.

On Feb. 11, Marivic finally left prison. At a hotel in Metro Manila was a pleasant surprise: Her daughter and mother were waiting for her. She arrived in Ormoc City on Sunday morning, Feb. 15, and was welcomed home by her two sons. Life for Marivic suddenly became a stroll in the park.

"*Para akong nabunutan ng tinik. Hindi ko akalain na makakalabas na ako* (I feel so relieved. I never thought that I would one day be freed)," says Marivic. Her detention cell at the Bureau of Corrections was "hell," she adds. But that's over with, and now she wants to rest awhile and enjoy her time with her children. Her eldest son is in fourth year high school, the second is in second year and her eight-year-old daughter is a second grader.

She'd like to put up a business but she lacks capital, says Marivic. So she'd really have to look for a job. But all in good time. At the moment, she wants to savor her newfound freedom. Aside from her family, she misses *tinola* and *kinilaw*. She was preparing some fish for *kinilaw* at the time of the interview. "I never did like the Tagalogs' version of the *sinigang* (stew) because it's too sour," she adds with a smile.

Nothing, after all, can spoil this day.

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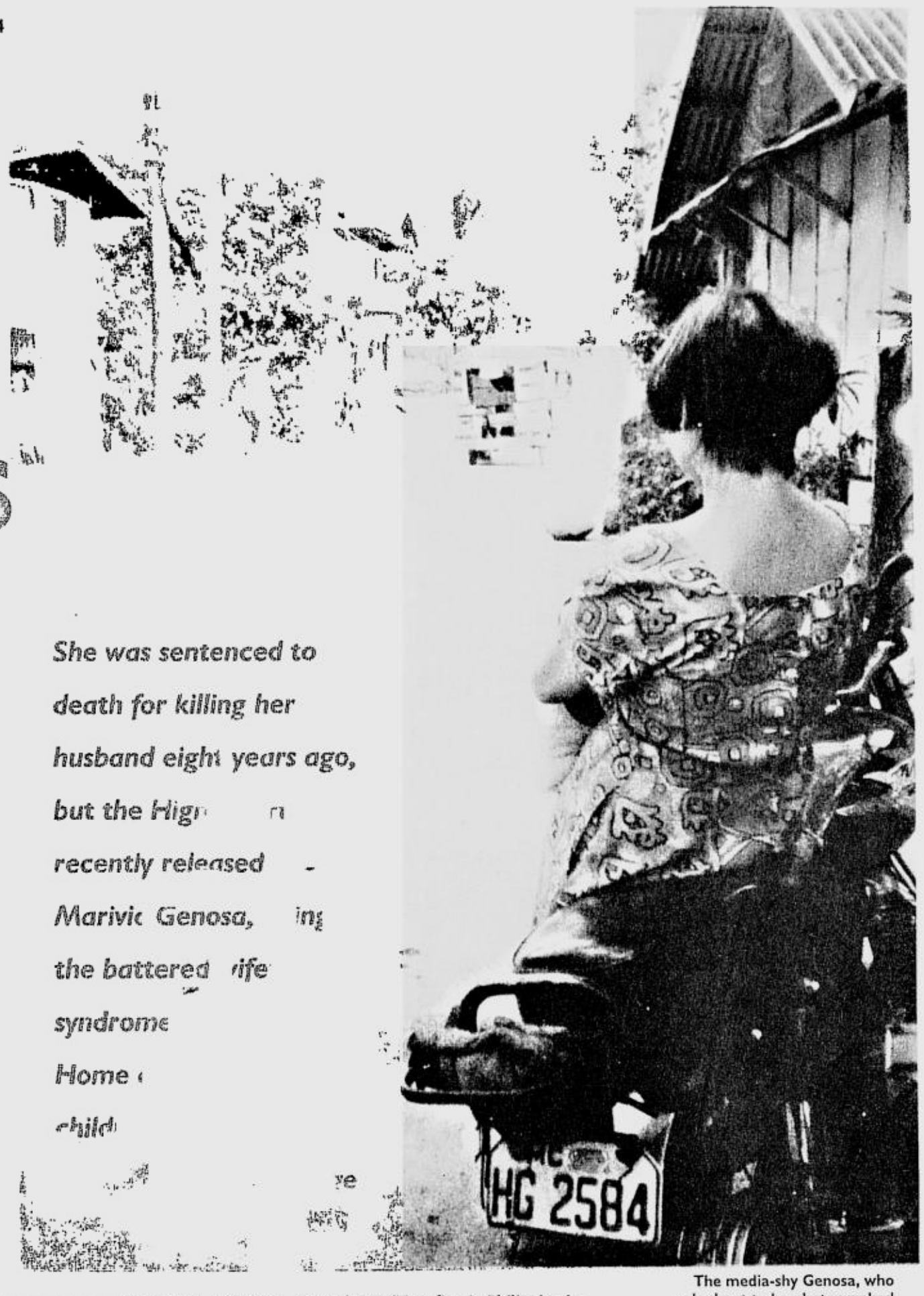
Survivors' Tales

Text and photograph
by Vicente S. Labro
PDI Visayas Bureau

Blessings Bruises



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Ormoc Regional Trial Court Judge Fortunito Madrona had meted out the death penalty to Marivic for killing her husband "in cold blood," and set aside the testimonies of witnesses who described her as a battered wife. One vital witness was Dr. Dino Caing, a company physician at the Philippine Phosphate and Fertilizer Corp. (Philphos) in Isabel, Leyte where Marivic had worked. Caing testified in court that Marivic had consulted him six times previously for domestic violence-related injuries and 23 times for severe hypertension due to emotional stress.

Interviewed by the INQUIRER hours after she was meted the death sentence in 1998, Marivic had said, "It was only a matter of who got killed first." After every fight with Ben, she added, she had felt that her husband "was killing me softly."

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But the marriage turned rocky as the couple bickered over Ben's drinking habit, among other vices. Neighbors and co-workers attested that the Genosas' frequent quarrels often turned physical, and that one or both of them often got hurt. Aside from Dr. Caing's testimony, Marivic's coworkers attested that she often had to wear dark sunglasses to hide a black eye after a domestic fight.

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Marivic, then eight months pregnant, and her two young sons were nowhere to be found. One neighbor recalled that on the morning of Nov. 16, she had seen Marivic and her children leaving the house. Marivic, she added, had told her that she was going to Cebu for a medical checkup.

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It was after she had enrolled a son at the local elementary school there that her identity was discovered because of the child's old boy scout registration. Marivic was arrested in September 1997 and brought back to Leyte to stand trial for parricide charges. She pleaded self-defense.

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While Marivic had admitted to killing her husband while he was sleeping, Legarda said Marivic could have committed the crime "out of self-defense" because "if a woman waits to defend herself in a physical confrontation, she is likely to be hurt or killed."

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"Imminent" danger

In her urgent omnibus motion, Legarda argued that "danger can be imminent without being immediate. A battered woman knows that danger is imminent even though she is not currently being beaten." Legarda noted that "an abusive husband is a bomb waiting to explode. The fuse is lit, the clock is ticking. The victim should be able to disarm the bomb before it actually explodes."

Iluminada Genosa, Ben's mother, did not raise any objection to the partial reopening of the case. In an interview with the INQUIRER in October 2000, Mrs. Genosa said that while she believed that Marivic should be made to pay for her crime, she had already forgiven her daughter-in-law and had even prayed for the salvation of her soul. Marivic's in-laws took charge of her two young sons, while her daughter was put under her maternal grandmother's care while Marivic was in jail. Once a year, her three children would visit Marivic. It was only these visits that made her happy, says Marivic. All her years in prison, she recounts, she was never made to feel anything except that she was a horrible person and a husband killer.

Still, she never gave up hope that people would eventually listen to her side of the story. She wrote letters to human right groups, even to President Joseph Estrada and later to President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, to explain what she went through as a battered wife that drove her to kill her husband, as she appealed for clemency. Nothing came out of her appeal to the two presidents.

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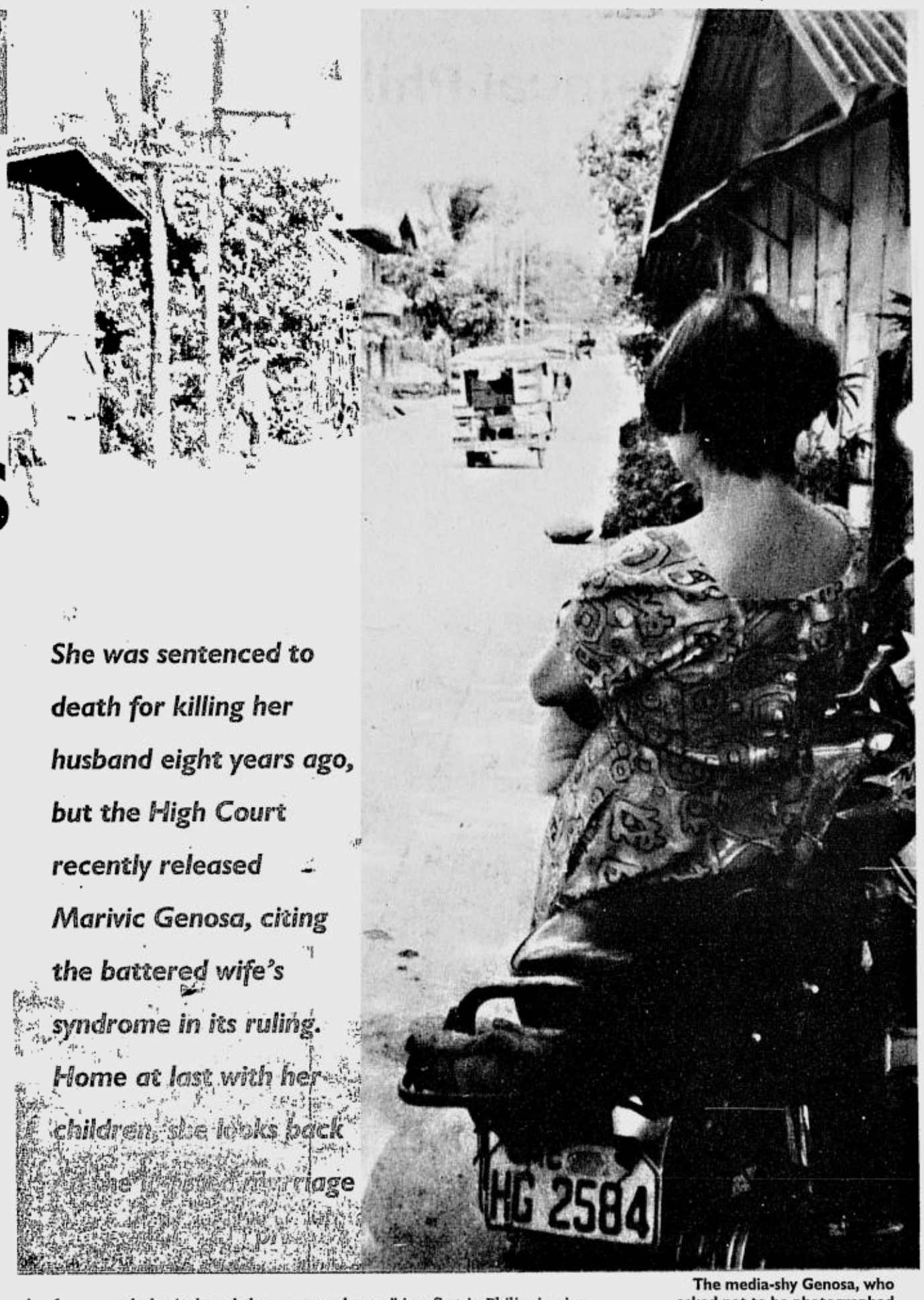
Survivors' Tales

Text and photograph by Vicente S. Labro PDI Visayas Bureau

Blessings After the Bruises



The media-shy Genosa, who asked not to be photographed for publication, looks forward to a better life

She was sentenced to death for killing her husband eight years ago, but the High Court recently released Marivic Genosa, citing the battered wife's syndrome in its ruling. Home at last with her children, she looks back [illegible] marriage

THE sight was so common at Ormoc's city plaza that nobody took a second glance at the mother, her young daughter and two sons taking a stroll at the seaside park that Sunday afternoon.

But unknown to many, it was the first time in more than six years that the group had enjoyed time together. Earlier that afternoon, mother and children had gone to church and then to an ice cream parlor to celebrate their reunion.

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Art

Centering, a ceramics exhibit featuring the works by Pete Cortes, Monique Agatep-Ignacio and Hadrian Mendoza at the Mag:net Gallery Makati, Paseo Center, Paseo de Roxas, corner Sedeño Street, Makati City until Feb. 28.

Tsunami, a solo exhibit by Maria Taniguchi at Finale Art Gallery, the Artwalk, Level 4, SM Megamall A until Feb. 29.

Instinct vs. Learning, Jayson Oliveria's latest suite of abstracts at the Mag:net Gallery Quezon City, The Loop, ELJ Center, ABS-CBN compound until March 2. For details, call 410-0995.

Music

Some of the country's best children's choirs showcase their talents in ***Samu't-Saring Tinig* VI** on Feb. 26 at the CCP Tanghalang Nicanor Abelardo at 6 p.m. It features local and international award-winning young choirs such as the Angat Children's Choir from Bulacan, Univeristy of the Philippines Cherubim and Seraphim, Mandaluyong Children's Chorus, Kilyawan Boys' Choir and the Palawan Children's Choir. For tickets, call 551-7930 and 832-3878.

In celebration of the International Women's Month, the Women's Action in Media and the Reproductive Rights Resource Group-Philippines, will hold the **Dance 4 Rock: Dancing for Women's Health and Rights** on Feb. 28, 8 p.m. at the Banquet Hall, Quezon City Sports Club, E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, QC. It will be a night of music and dancing featuring Latino, rhythm & blues, '60s and '70s and up to the present sounds from performing live bands for the benefit of Raquel Edralin-Tiglao Institute for Family Violence Prevention and to the Fund for Women in Crisis.

Bunny Brendia appears as Maria in Airdance's "Indios Bravos" at Teatro Aguinaldo

Cinema

Pelikula@titusbrandsma presents **Tom Tykwer Retrospective**: "Run Lola Run" (1998), Wintersleepers" (1997) and "The Princess and the Warrior" (2000) on Feb. 28 at 1 p.m. at the UP Film Institute (UP Diliman, Quezon City). For details, call 726-7763 / 721-8677 (Jofti).

Film lovers will enjoy the best of contemporary and classic Asian cinema at the Cultural Center of the Philippines in Sine Asya at the CCP. The ***Sine Asya* Specials** schedule is as follows: March 9-12, Focus on Japan—"Eiga Sai, Part One: The Samurai Film"; June, Focus on China; and September, Focus on Japan—"Eiga Sai, Part Two." Sine Asya Marathons at the CCP will treat viewers to two to three titles per session and is scheduled on every second and fourth Thursdays of the month. Sinetaktakan is a monthly forum dealing with themes on timely film and broadcast concerns. All events will be held at the CCP Tanghalang Manuel Conde. For details, call 832-1125 loc. 1704-1705 or 832-5120 or visit the CCP website at www.culturalcenter.gov.ph.

Onstage

Airdance will premiere **Indios Bravos**, a contemporary dance-theater piece on Feb. 26, 7 p.m. at the Teatro Aguinaldo, Camp Aguinaldo Theater in Quezon City. Choreographing the evening length ballet is former Ballet Philippines soloist Dwight Rodrigazo who also leads the cast as Pepe with Bunny Brendia playing Maria. For inquiries, call 373-3567 or 373-1990.

Improvs, vignettes, songs, characters, monologues featuring the 15-minute **Hamlet comedy**, scenes from "Wit," and more as performed by Philippine Playhouse actors at AIM, ground floor, 123 Paseo de Roxas, Legaspi Village, Makati on Feb. 23, 7:30 p.m. For details, call 879-8230.

Atbp

Europe's grandest annual ball once again unfolds in Manila on Feb. 27 when the Johann Strauss Society Inc. stages its third debutantes' ball, the **Vienna Opera Ball and the Presentation of Debutantes 2004** at the Le Pavillon Metropolitan Park on Roxas Boulevard. The ball is for the benefit of the Alay Kapwa Kilusang Pangkalusugan's hospice care program for terminally ill patients. This year's ball will see eight young ladies, 16 to 22 years old, contributing to the worthy cause.

The Santuario de San Antonio Parish Center is hosting ***May Kasal sa* Forbes Park, A Wedding Fair** on Feb. 28 and 29. The fair features wedding essentials like caterers, floral designers, photographers, bridal gown designers, souvenirs, gift suggestions and more. Makeup artist Madge Lejano will also execute trial makeup and bridal makeover to future brides. For details, call 825-3482 or 825-0804.

Corban Daycare and Tutorial Center will hold a **Child Savvy seminar** for new parents, preschool educators and yayas. The seminar will talk about the psychological and emotional life of children from ages one to six. To be held on Feb. 28, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at 6/F, MB Aguirre Building, President's Avenue corner Elizalde Street. For details, call 842-6665 or 809-3050.

Filipinas Heritage Library presents **The Eye of Writing: Poetry Workshop for Beginners** on Feb. 26, March 4, 11 and 18, 6 to 8 p.m. Through several reading and writing activities and interactions, the workshop aims to guide students in the writing of poetry brought on by the personal. Workshop fee is P1,700 inclusive of handouts and certificates. For details, call 892-1801. Filipinas Heritage Library is along Makati Avenue opposite The Manila Peninsula.

Fun Run vs Family Violence, around the Quezon Memorial Circle, Feb. 28. Assembly at 5:30 a.m. at the Risen Plaza in front of Quezon City Hall. For details, call the Women's Crisis Center c/o Eden Bonagoa, tel. 924-9315 or 929-2590. Participants are asked to wear white shirts.

X-manila

The Cultural Center of the Philippines and the National Commission for Culture and the Arts will present a unique musical concert at the St. Mary Magdalene Church in Magdalena, Laguna on Feb. 24 at 4 p.m., billed as ***Kulintang* and Claude Debussy in Magdalena, Laguna**. The concert is the brainchild of National Artist Jose Maceda. The said concert will also be performed at the CCP Main Theater on March 9.

The National Secretariat for Social Action-Justice & Peace, the social action arm of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, will launch **Alay Kapwa 2004**, the annual Lenten campaign of the Catholic church in the country. With the theme "Kapangyarihan ng Mahihirap ang Magbabago sa Pamahalaan," AK 2004 will be launched through a Concelebrated Mass to be presided over by Bishop Gabriel Reyes at the Our Lady of Peace and Good Voyage Cathedral, Antipolo City, on Feb. 27 at 9 a.m. For details, call Carlito Santos at (02) 527-4146/4134/4148 or (0919) 550-4669.

By Jess Abrera

For this week's bands and schedules call:

- Hard Rock Café (893-4662-65)
- Virgin Café : QC (926-7982)
- '70s Bistro: 46 Anonas St., QC (922-0492)
- Hobbit House: 1801 Mabini St., Malate, Manila (521-7604)
- Strumm's: El Pueblo, Ortigas (637-3009)

The SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules

Rich ...from page 3

with his girlfriend, model and Spanish instructor Alexi Alunan.

These days, it's all about basketball for Alvarez as he prepares for the pros. Newly installed Shell coach John Moran had seen Alvarez during his visits to the Moro Lorenzo Gym in late 2002. "This kid will be pretty good, I thought," Moran says. "He played top flight competition the last few years, but still it's a big jump from Ateneo and PBL to the PBA. The players are bigger, faster and stronger. He's realizing that it's going to take a little time for him, too. He's got great tools, great skills and he's a pretty intelligent kid. He's a consummate team player, very unselfish, takes direction well and has great upside. I think he's capable of becoming a very good PBA player." Moran notes that Alvarez has been up to the task, coming to practice two hours early, taking quickly to the new drills the coaching staff has been putting him through and watching a lot of game tapes.

Beyond the adjustment to the behemoths who populate the PBA painted area, Alvarez will also have to make his perimeter game more consistent as well as improve his ball-handling. INQUIRER sportswriter Dennis U. Eroa, who has covered Alvarez throughout his amateur career, believes the top rookie will do well in the PBA: "It will not be easy for him to compete against bigger foes. To attack the middle requires gargantuan effort. His greatest weapons, however, are his big fighting heart and a sense of timing in collaring the boards. He can pop out those timely jumpers, but it's safe to say that he isn't John Moran's go-to-guy when it comes to offense. Rather, Rich will be tasked to do the dirty job of putting the handcuff on the opposing team's offensive threats." Eroa adds that the solid citizen in Alvarez will help him make a positive impact in the big league.

Alvarez is willing to oblige, raring to give his all for Shell. "I'm starting from scratch. Everyone's a superstar in the PBA. I'm just looking forward to learning and doing my part to help my team," he says of his upcoming PBA career. "I just want to be a winner. I just want to help Shell win. It's all about the team. I'll be proud of myself if we can just improve every year."

For the people who have been part of Alvarez's remarkable yet still young career, it's all good. "It's overwhelming. It's like I'm dreaming," says Rudy of his son's achievements. "It's a fairy tale," Santos says of his ward. On his part, Alvarez is simply thankful for his blessings and for the people who helped get him here—and oh, the places he will go.

Watch him tonight, under the bright lights of the Big Dome. There he is, soaring and rebounding his way to a new chapter in his amazing basketball quest in the opener of the Fiesta Conference, a search for that indelible magic of the game, something that keeps him enthralled still. "It's that moment when the team's clicking, when everything's working, when you know what each other is going to do. "It's when you step on the court, look at your first five and know that you're going to win," Rich Alvarez says dreamily. "When that happens, basketball's easy. It's just fun." Q

The Youth ...from page 3

reach my goal of playing in the US," adds the PBA's fifth overall pick, who saw brief stints in the Australian Basketball Association and the National Basketball League, two of the top leagues in Australia.

PDI PHOTO

Ervin Sotto

Denver Lopez

Although it remains to be seen, Red Bull Barako described the 6' 2" guard from US NCAA's California State-Fullerton as a worthy replacement for Willie Miller. Plucked sixth overall by the Barakos in the PBA freshman raffle, Lopez will be forced to plug the loopholes left open by Miller after the 2002 MVP was traded to the Phone Pals. But after hooking up with the Barakos for P4.5 million in two years, Lopez doesn't want to pressure himself by putting Miller's value to the team into the equation. "I don't want to think about it. I will just play my usual game and work hard to help the team," says Lopez.

Nelbert Omolon

PDI PHOTO

Ervin Sotto

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Among the other youngsters who will see action in the Fiesta cup are second-rounders Paul Artadi (Purefoods), Carlo Sharma (Shell), Kim Valenzuela (Ginebra), Niño Gelig (Talk 'N' Text), Willie Wilson (Alaska), Francis Mercado (Red Bull), Ronald Cuan (Sta. Lucia), Christopher Guerrero (Talk 'N' Text), and third-rounder-Bernzon Franco (Alaska). Get ready, PBA, youth is about to be served. Q

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Art

Centering, a ceramics exhibit featuring the works by Pete Cortes, Monique Agatep-Ignacio and Hadrian Mendoza at the Mag:net Gallery Makati, Paseo Center, Paseo de Roxas, corner Sedeño Street, Makati City until Feb. 28.

Tsunami, a solo exhibit by Maria Taniguchi at Finale Art Gallery, the Artwalk, Level 4, SM Megamall A until Feb. 29.

Instinct vs. Learning. Jayson Oliveria's latest suite of abstracts at the Mag:net Gallery Quezon City, The Loop, ELJ Center, ABS-CBN compound until March 2. For details, call 410-0995.

Music

Some of the country's best children's choirs showcase their talents in ***Samu't-Saring Tinig* VI** on Feb. 26 at the CCP Tanghalang Nicanor Abelardo at 6 p.m. It features local and international award-winning young choirs such as the Angat Children's Choir from Bulacan, Univeristy of the Philippines Cherubim and Seraphim, Mandaluyong Children's Chorus, Kilyawan Boys' Choir and the Palawan Children's Choir. For tickets, call 551-7930 and 832-3878.

In celebration of the International Women's Month, the Women's Action in Media and the Reproductive Rights Resource Group-Philippines, will hold the **Dance 4 Rock: Dancing for Women's Health and Rights** on Feb. 28, 8 p.m. at the Banquet Hall, Quezon City Sports Club, E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, QC. It will be a night of music and dancing featuring Latino, rhythm & blues, '60s and '70s and up to the present sounds from performing live bands for the benefit of Raquel Edralin-Tiglao Institute for Family Violence Prevention and to the Fund for Women in Crisis.

Bunny Brendia appears as Maria in Airdance's "Indios Bravos" at Teatro Aguinaldo

Cinema

Pelikula@titusbrandsma presents **Tom Tykwer Retrospective**: "Run Lola Run" (1998), Wintersleepers" (1997) and "The Princess and the Warrior" (2000) on Feb. 28 at 1 p.m. at the UP Film Institute (UP Diliman, Quezon City). For details, call 726-7763 / 721-8677 (Jofti).

Film lovers will enjoy the best of contemporary and classic Asian cinema at the Cultural Center of the Philippines in Sine Asya at the CCP. The ***Sine Asya* Specials** schedule is as follows: March 9-12, Focus on Japan—"Eiga Sai, Part One: The Samurai Film"; June, Focus on China; and September, Focus on Japan—"Eiga Sai, Part Two." Sine Asya Marathons at the CCP will treat viewers to two to three titles per session and is scheduled on every second and fourth Thursdays of the month. Sinetaktakan is a monthly forum dealing with themes on timely film and broadcast concerns. All events will be held at the CCP Tanghalang Manuel Conde. For details, call 832-1125 loc. 1704-1705 or 832-5120 or visit the CCP website at www.culturalcenter.gov.ph.

Onstage

Airdance will premiere **Indios Bravos**, a contemporary dance-theater piece on Feb. 26, 7 p.m. at the Teatro Aguinaldo, Camp Aguinaldo Theater in Quezon City. Choreographing the evening length ballet is former Ballet Philippines soloist Dwight Rodrigazo who also leads the cast as Pepe with Bunny Brendia playing Maria. For inquiries, call 373-3567 or 373-1990.

Improvs, vignettes, songs, characters, monologues featuring the 15-minute **Hamlet comedy**, scenes from "Wit," and more as performed by Philippine Playhouse actors at AIM, ground floor, 123 Paseo de Roxas, Legaspi Village, Makati on Feb. 23, 7:30 p.m. For details, call 879-8230.

Atbp

Europe's grandest annual ball once again unfolds in Manila on Feb. 27 when the Johann Strauss Society Inc. stages its third debutantes' ball, the **Vienna Opera Ball and the Presentation of Debutantes 2004** at the Le Pavillon Metropolitan Park on Roxas Boulevard. The ball is for the benefit of the Alay Kapwa Kilusang Pangkalusugan's hospice care program for terminally ill patients. This year's ball will see eight young ladies, 16 to 22 years old, contributing to the worthy cause.

The Santuario de San Antonio Parish Center is hosting ***May Kasal sa* Forbes Park, A Wedding Fair** on Feb. 28 and 29. The fair features wedding essentials like caterers, floral designers, photographers, bridal gown designers, souvenirs, gift suggestions and more. Makeup artist Madge Lejano will also execute trial makeup and bridal makeover to future brides. For details, call 825-3482 or 825-0804.

Corban Daycare and Tutorial Center will hold a **Child Savvy seminar** for new parents, preschool educators and yayas. The seminar will talk about the psychological and emotional life of children from ages one to six. To be held on Feb. 28, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at 6/F, MB Aguirre Building, President's Avenue corner Elizalde Street. For details, call 842-6665 or 809-3050.

Filipinas Heritage Library presents **The Eye of Writing: Poetry Workshop for Beginners** on Feb. 26, March 4, 11 and 18, 6 to 8 p.m. Through several reading and writing activities and interactions, the workshop aims to guide students in the writing of poetry brought on by the personal. Workshop fee is P1,700 inclusive of handouts and certificates. For details, call 892-1801. Filipinas Heritage Library is along Makati Avenue opposite The Manila Peninsula.

Fun Run vs Family Violence, around the Quezon Memorial Circle, Feb. 28. Assembly at 5:30 a.m. at the Risen Plaza in front of Quezon City Hall. For details, call the Women's Crisis Center c/o Eden Bonagoa, tel. 924-9315 or 929-2590. Participants are asked to wear white shirts.

X-manila

The Cultural Center of the Philippines and the National Commission for Culture and the Arts will present a unique musical concert at the St. Mary Magdalene Church in Magdalena, Laguna on Feb. 24 at 4 p.m., billed as ***Kulintang* and Claude Debussy in Magdalena, Laguna**. The concert is the brainchild of National Artist Jose Maceda. The said concert will also be performed at the CCP Main Theater on March 9.

The National Secretariat for Social Action-Justice & Peace, the social action arm of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, will launch **Alay Kapwa 2004**, the annual Lenten campaign of the Catholic church in the country. With the theme "Kapangyarihan ng Mahihirap ang Magbabago sa Pamahalaan," AK 2004 will be launched through a Concelebrated Mass to be presided over by Bishop Gabriel Reyes at the Our Lady of Peace and Good Voyage Cathedral, Antipolo City, on Feb. 27 at 9 a.m. For details, call Carlito Santos at (02) 527-4146/4134/4148 or (0919) 550-4669.

By Jess Abrera

For this week's bands and schedules call:

- Hard Rock Café (893-4662-65)
- Virgin Café : QC (926-7982)
- '70s Bistro: 46 Anonas St., QC (922-0492)
- Hobbit House: 1801 Mabini St., Malate, Manila (521-7604)
- Strumm's: El Pueblo, Ortigas (637-3009)

The SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules

Rich ...from page 3

with his girlfriend, model and Spanish instructor Alexi Alunan.

These days, it's all about basketball for Alvarez as he prepares for the pros. Newly installed Shell coach John Moran had seen Alvarez during his visits to the Moro Lorenzo Gym in late 2002. "This kid will be pretty good, I thought," Moran says. "He played top flight competition the last few years, but still it's a big jump from Ateneo and PBL to the PBA. The players are bigger, faster and stronger. He's realizing that it's going to take a little time for him, too. He's got great tools, great skills and he's a pretty intelligent kid. He's a consummate team player, very unselfish, takes direction well and has great upside. I think he's capable of becoming a very good PBA player." Moran notes that Alvarez has been up to the task, coming to practice two hours early, taking quickly to the new drills the coaching staff has been putting him through and watching a lot of game tapes.

Beyond the adjustment to the behemoths who populate the PBA painted area, Alvarez will also have to make his perimeter game more consistent as well as improve his ball-handling. INQUIRER sportswriter Dennis U. Eroa, who has covered Alvarez throughout his amateur career, believes the top rookie will do well in the PBA: "It will not be easy for him to compete against bigger foes. To attack the middle requires gargantuan effort. His greatest weapons, however, are his big fighting heart and a sense of timing in collaring the boards. He can pop out those timely jumpers, but it's safe to say that he isn't John Moran's go-to-guy when it comes to offense. Rather, Rich will be tasked to do the dirty job of putting the handcuff on the opposing team's offensive threats." Eroa adds that the solid citizen in Alvarez will help him make a positive impact in the big league.

Alvarez is willing to oblige, raring to give his all for Shell. "I'm starting from scratch. Everyone's a superstar in the PBA. I'm just looking forward to learning and doing my part to help my team," he says of his upcoming PBA career. "I just want to be a winner. I just want to help Shell win. It's all about the team. I'll be proud of myself if we can just improve every year."

For the people who have been part of Alvarez's remarkable yet still young career, it's all good. "It's overwhelming. It's like I'm dreaming," says Rudy of his son's achievements. "It's a fairy tale," Santos says of his ward. On his part, Alvarez is simply thankful for his blessings and for the people who helped get him here—and oh, the places he will go.

Watch him tonight, under the bright lights of the Big Dome. There he is, soaring and rebounding his way to a new chapter in his amazing basketball quest in the opener of the Fiesta Conference, a search for that indelible magic of the game, something that keeps him enthralled still. "It's that moment when the team's clicking, when everything's working, when you know what each other is going to do. "It's when you step on the court, look at your first five and know that you're going to win," Rich Alvarez says dreamily. "When that happens, basketball's easy. It's just fun." Q

The Youth ...from page 3

reach my goal of playing in the US," adds the PBA's fifth overall pick, who saw brief stints in the Australian Basketball Association and the National Basketball League, two of the top leagues in Australia.

PDI PHOTO

Ervin Sotto

Denver Lopez

Although it remains to be seen, Red Bull Barako described the 6' 2" guard from US NCAA's California State-Fullerton as a worthy replacement for Willie Miller. Plucked sixth overall by the Barakos in the PBA freshman raffle, Lopez will be forced to plug the loopholes left open by Miller after the 2002 MVP was traded to the Phone Pals. But after hooking up with the Barakos for P4.5 million in two years, Lopez doesn't want to pressure himself by putting Miller's value to the team into the equation. "I don't want to think about it. I will just play my usual game and work hard to help the team," says Lopez.

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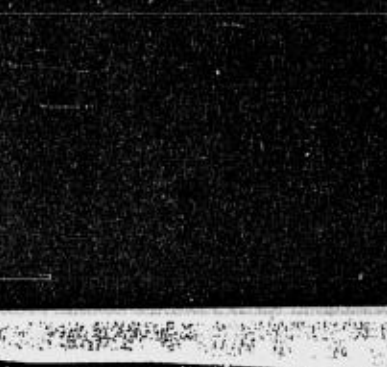

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